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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

BACK IN TANDEM President Aquino (center) leads Palace officials during "Sinimulan Pangkalahatan Para sa Lahat 2011" around Quezon Memorial Circle. At left is Senator Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

Bikefest sets stage for Roxas entry to Cabinet

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS a bicycle ride apparently meant to more than just promote the health of Cabinet members. It may also have been a Palace entry of sorts, during which Mar Roxas into the President's official family.

For the first time since President Aquino last week confirmed that he was appointing his former running mate as Palace chief of staff, the President appeared together in public with Roxas and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr.

Wearing a yellow shirt, black cycling shorts and a safety helmet, Mr. Aquino led 100 bikers in driving around Quezon Memorial Circle for 10 min.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Palace to Church: Cool it

Tension over reproductive health bill escalates

By Christine O. Avendaño

APPEALING FOR SOBRIETY, Malacañang yesterday sought to heal a widening rift between Church and State over the controversial reproductive health bill that last week saw prelates threatening civil disobedience and President Aquino warning he would jail them.

"We have different positions here, but probably we should explain our positions within the means of the law. That is what the President is saying. There is room for debate, it doesn't have to degenerate to illegal acts or anything like that," Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang told reporters.

"It would be better that we calm down a bit and discuss the issue at hand," the President's deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, said over state radio, adding that Mr. Aquino was merely reminding that Filipinos have a civil duty to pay their taxes used to finance public programs.

Tension flared when several members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) last week declared an "all-out war" using

PALACE 4A

With Mar in, Noy reshapes Palace chain of command

By Amanda Dorotan

THE ONE YEAR BAN on the appointment of losing candidates in the May 10, 2010, elections ended on Wednesday, clearing the way for the appointment of the defeated Liberal Party vice presidential candidate, former Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II, as a Cabinet position as President Aquino's chief of staff.

ANALYSIS

The appointment of Roxas, which is expected to be announced shortly, will not signal the start of a Cabinet revamp or reinvigorate the Aquino administration whose public satisfaction rating has been declining over the past six months.

Rather, the President is trying to reincorporate Malacañang's chain of command by giving Roxas a position that is not a regular portfolio and that personally puts Roxas in collision with Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Mr. Aquino's

AFFAIRS A2

IMF chief arrested on sex charges

NEW YORK—The leader of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a strong contender for the French presidency was taken off a Paris-bound jetliner at Kennedy International Airport on Saturday afternoon and arrested in connection with the violent sexual assault of a chambermaid at a Manhattan hotel.

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn, 62, was apprehended by detectives of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in the first-class section of the Air France plane at 4:40 p.m. and was turned over to the New York Police Department (NYPD) for questioning.

Strauss-Kahn, who was widely reported to become the French Socialist Party's presidential candidate, was formally arrested at 2:15 a.m. on Sunday on charges of criminal sexual assault, attempted rape and criminal imprisonment.

A lawyer representing Nafissa Kahn, Benjamin Brafman, told Reuters in an e-mail that the IMF chief "will plead not guilty." Brafman made no further comment when his client swam arraignment in a police holding cell.

NYPD spokesperson Paul J. Browne said it was about 1 p.m. on Saturday when the 32-year-old chambermaid entered Strauss-Kahn's suite—Room 2806—at the luxury

AND COMMENTARY A10

IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn

US warship's crew mum on Bin Laden

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ANYTHING but the Osama bin Laden was buried.

Capt. Steve Lindsey, skipper of the visiting US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson, evaded all Osama bin Laden-related questions raised by Filipino journalists who joined yesterday's tour of the nuclear-powered warship upon the invitation of the US Embassy in Manila.

Minutes before Marengis, the embassy's deputy spokesperson, earlier told reporters that "no one on the Vinson is authorized to discuss any operational details that involve Osama bin Laden."

When interviewed, some Filipino-American crew members of the aircraft carrier also declined comment on the issue. "It's not permis-

DETAILING A12

Palace sees no force backlash against P-Noy visit to Carl Vinson / A11

TRIBUTE TO CHIT ESTELLA

Firm in her principles, love for downtrodden

By Yvonne T. Chua
Contributor

[Editor's Note: The author is a founder and writer of Mrs Pilos, a media outfit which probes into issues behind the news. Here is Lottie for "Pros."]

CHIT ESTELLA and I were well on our way to obtaining tenure as professors of journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman when chance came into June. We had received the university's coveted "up in our" policy after graduating this month with a master's degree in public management from the UP Open University.

As long last, we could put aside the gnawing fear we had shared for years—of whether longtime, aging professorial journalists like us could and should still make a life out of the academe.

Both of us could also focus more on Mrs Pilos, the small media nonprofit group we cofounded with four journalist-friends three years ago to keep us abreast and only of the journalism profession but, more importantly, of our selves.

Except that Chit—formally Lourdes Estella Bautista—is no longer around.

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday as my family and I were about to have supper, the cell came. A boy had rammed the side that was taking Chit in a dinner date with some high school friends.

The senseless killing brought to an abrupt close the illustrious career of one of the country's most principled journalists and best journalism educators who

NEWS A4

NHRA plans speed radar guns on motorbikes / A21

LEARNING
Top grad takes her UP education to heart / G1

SPORTS
American Henson held off Bayron to top PH Open by 1 shot / A29

ENTERTAINMENT
Meet the Fil-Am band that nearly stole Bieber's show / E3

WEATHER FORECAST

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DENR: Higher mining fees a boon

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it would impose more charges on the mining industry to maximize government revenues at a time when the price of minerals such as gold and oil are soaring in the world market.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said he had proposed to President Aquino several reforms in the mining industry to optimize the government's control over the country's mineral resources.

These reforms and new fees could give the government an income of about P8 billion yearly, Paje said in a recent interview.

"You are destroying the environment somehow through mining. Thus, you have to recover something from the environmental degradation," he said.

Paje said his proposals lay down new charges for the mining industry. It is expected that Mr. Aquino would issue an executive order soon imposing the reforms and lifting the moratorium on new mining applications.

One of the major changes proposed involves the ownership of mine tailings and waste, which are worth "billions" of pesos, Paje said.

Some old and abandoned mining areas still have mine tailings from which gold, copper and iron ore could still be extracted, he said.

These are resources that mining firms would be eager to get their hands on, he said.

Minerals such as gold and silver have seen record high prices these past months. Gold reached $1,505 per ounce in April on the back of economic uncertainties in Europe, the United States, and the Middle East.

Instead of allowing mining firms to reclaim abandoned sites and their mineral resources, "we are proposing that these become the property of the state," Paje said. The government can then auction off the extraction of minerals from these tailings to private companies, he said.

The government is also proposing to compel mining applicants to pay an annual occupational fee of P500, at present, companies only pay the fee once they submit an application, Paje said.

But failing to collect the occupational fee annually, the government is losing P750 million a year, the DENR chief said.

"When you get an application, the claim is yours exclusively. But if you are letting the land go idle for 10 years, the government is not getting an income," Paje noted.

Charging royalties

Aside from these charges, the government is also thinking of charging mining firms a royalty fee.

Paje previously said he had suggested to the President that 25 mining sites be declared "mineral reservations."

Declaring an area a mineral reservation, which means its products are of "strategic" value to the country, would compel a mining firm to pay royalties to the government.

Paje said the Aquino administration stands to gain about P7 billion a year from royalties.

Mining companies paid P686 million in excise taxes to the government in 2009, an insignificant amount compared to their total gross sales of about P150 billion, Paje said.

At present, nine mineral reservations have been declared throughout the country. These are found in Gubat, Sorsogon; Zambales; Bolinao, Camarines Sur; Santa Cruz Island, Davao del Norte; Compostela Valley; Zamboanga del Norte; and off offshore areas around the country.

Paje said mining firms had agreed in principle to the imposition of the royalty fees. However, he noted that they had suggested "payment options."

"They don't want an across-the-board 1-percent royalty fee, for instance. They want it based on profits," the environment secretary said, adding that the government was willing to discuss the rates with the industry.

NPA justifies attack on mine

Q A

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Palace to Church: Cool it

Front page 4 >

pulpits against the reproductive health (RH) bill pending in Congress and warned they were prepared not to pay taxes in a civil disobedience campaign.

Ms. Aquino, a 61-year-old bachelor who has said he is prepared to face Church excommunication for supporting the RH bill, countered that tax boycotts were seditious and could lead to criminal cases.

"He can put us all in jail. We are all willing to pay the price to serve the nation from modern threats and to save the generation from the grasp of the evil one," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said in response to the President's statement.

"It sounds like Marcos when his mother called for civil disobedience. What happened to his mother's contrition and his father's humanism?" Arguelles told CBCPNews, the bishops' news website.

The archbishop was referring to the late Corazon Aquino's action against Ferdinand Marcos following allegations of fraud in the snap election of 1986 that led to the ouster of the dictator.

'Charge us all'

Catubaan Auxiliary Bishop Jose Calin Inguilan said Mr. Aquino's edition threatens "most welcome."

"Let him charge us all bishops, priests, religious, all the faithful with sedition," said Siocon-put Bishop Antonio Tuzon.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo called for calm and a "wait-and-see attitude" but also added that, in the end, Catholics have to "obey God and not man."

Fr. Jerry Oliquino, director of the Diocesan Family and Life Ministry in the Imus Diocese, Cavite, cited the weekend rally of the Church-led always-born coexistence and stomp in its opposition against the RH bill.

"The Church is motivated by genuine love and concern for the people and the poor, unlike the RH bill proponents who are certainly motivated by the love of money and they see the poor for them to stay in power," said Oliquino, whose statement was also posted on the CBCPNews.

Emotional tantrum

Oliquino was reacting to Zaldivia Rep. Lito Bagas who said that the Catholic Church was already showing "a symptom of scarcity of arguments" when the CBCP disengaged last week from a dialogue with the Palace.

The CBCP's move was an indication that the Church was "bankrupt" of reasons why the RH bill should not be legislated, with Church leaders resorting to "threats, namecalling and emotional tantrums," according to Bagas.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago yesterday acknowledged that civil disobedience was a valid form of protest.

"That is an accepted method of dispute resolution provided that the passive resisters are willing to go peacefully to jail when they violate the existing law," Santiago, a former trial court judge, said in an interview.

That's why, in the event of a nationwide movement to boycott payment of taxes, the delinquent taxpayers should not resist "if they are hailed to court by the BIR, and accept the decision of the judge, either a fine or imprisonment," she added.

Enrile against bill

Sen. Pimble Lacson agreed. "If they don't want to pay taxes, they're liable for tax evasion. If we allow this, what about the rest of the 94 million Filipinos who depend on social services? If we pay and you don't pay and you don't get punished, that's unfair."

As the debate rages, Mr. Aquino may have a tougher time convincing the leaders of the Senate to pass the bill.

While inconsistent in the House tokens on getting the measure approved on final reading, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile reminded that he was opposed to it.

"I don't know whether we can tackle it here. I have many questions. I don't know if they're going to have enough numbers to pass it. I already said I'm against it and I can't support it," Enrile told reporters.

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III also has openly opposed the measure, recently expressing that the government's allocation for family health did not reach its beneficiaries from 2008 to 2010.

Senate approval seen

Sen. Pia Cayetano is set to present her floor deliberations the health committee report on the four RH measures authored by Santiago, her colleagues said.

Santiago predicted that a majority of the senators would vote for the approval of the committee report.

"I see a win in the Senate," she said, adding that even reluctantist senators would vote for its approval to endow themselves to voters who favor the bill.

"Some senate senators recognize the fact that a greater majority of voters are in favor of the bill. If they want to win the election, they have to support the RH bill," she added.

Of the 23 senators, six are seeking reelection in 2013. With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Jocelyn R. Uy and TJ Burgonio

Koreans face ouster

THE BUREAU of Immigration (BI) will deport three South Korean fugitives, including one man wanted for a $6-million credit scam.

Immigration Commissioner Rhodel Sandoval Jr. has ordered the immediate deportation of Han Sung Woon, Kim Young Ui and Oh Myung Gun.

Sandoval said he threatened to report the three to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) if they refuse to leave the country.

The immigration chief said he had instructed Bureau lawyer Irvin Santos, chief of the BI law and investigation division, to expedite the deportation of the three.

Sandoval said Han Sung Woon was wanted by the Beijing District court for allegedly defrauding several companies in a $6-million credit scam.

Kim Young Ui is wanted in Incheon for abduction, murder and extortion of $30,000.

Sandoval said Oh Myung Gun was wanted for fraud for allegedly ordering a shipment of goods from Korea which he did not pay for after it arrived in Manila. —Philip C. Tubeza

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Last hearing on ARMM polls

...NOCBN) against rules, the Senate committee on local government has scheduled a final public hearing on Thursday on the Malacañang-backed proposal to postpone the autonomous region's May 2011 elections (ARMM) elections.

The hearing, to be held in Marawi City, will coincide with the start of the filing period for certificates of candidacy for the Aug. 8 polls.

The earlier hearing in the final step before the committee comes out with its report on Senate Bill 2756 and House Bill 4146 which seek to synchronize the ARMM polls and the 2013 midterm national elections, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said.

Most debates could begin "as soon as possible" after the report is issued, Marcos, the committee chair, added.

"Many officials to the extent they have made very strong representations to me to continue to treat as urgent the measure proposing the ARMM elections," he said.

Postponing the vote and holding it together with the May 2013 national elections is among President Aquino's pet legislative bills. The House of Representatives has approved its version of the measure and it is now with the Senate for approval.

Meanwhile, a local leader in Maguindanao has warned that Ondoy supposed to holding the ARMM elections on Aug. 8 might result in "desperate measures," as he welcomed the intensified police and military efforts at keeping the province in the region.

According to Datu Michael Alan Mala, "Mili many senators opposing the two bills proposing the postponement of the ARMM election, there may be a sinister effort to paint a picture of lawlessness in the ARMM to force the postponement on imagined security concerns."

"But the police and the armed forces are in full control of the peace and order situation. There's absolutely no justification for postponing the polls. There are more than private armies of political warlords and armed rebels could disrupt it," he said.

Muslim Filipinos were looking forward to the August elections as the would give them a chance to rule for leaders that they trust and respect.

"I appeal to the military and the police to intensify security measures in ARMM to ensure that certain groups will not abuse elections do not take advantage of the situation to sow fear or create havoc to justify the polls' deferment," Mala said.

The Commission on Elections has said it was ready to hold the elections, but preferred a postponement.

Holding the elections in August would be a distraction to the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, high on the agenda of which are proposed amendments to the organic law that created the ARMM, officials of the peace process have said.

TJ Burgonio

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Mayon, Bulusan acting up

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LEGAZPI CITY—At least 11 volcanic quakes and one rock fall were detected in the past 24 hours on Mt. Mayon even as Mt. Bulusan in neighboring Sorsogon continued to show signs of restiveness.

In its latest bulletin, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said a moderate emission of white steam that shot up 600 meters above Mayon's crater was observed drifting southwest and southwest.

Under glow was also observed at least to 2 km in east by the volcano's.

Results of a ground deformation measurement conducted on May 7-11 showed slight inflation of the volcanic edifice as compared to the survey on March 6-16, Phivolcs said.

Alert level 1 is still in effect over Mayon Volcano. Although its eruption is imminent, the public should not enter the six-kilometer radius permanent danger zone (PDZ) due to ever-present dangers from sudden small explosions and rock falls from the upper and middle slopes, Phivolcs said.

Residents are advised to avoid active streams and river channels and perennially identified lahar zones as well as the southeast sector of Mayon, especially during heavy rains.

Meanwhile, restive Mt. Bulusan appeared to have quieted down but remained unpredictable, resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said yesterday.

Phivolcs' seismic instruments detected on Sunday only four volcanic earthquakes during a 24-hour observation period, while 11 volcanic quakes jolted the volcano on Saturday.

But the fluctuating trend in volcanic quakes was still a sign that the volcano's state remained unstable, Laguerta said.

He said Phivolcs would continue to closely monitor Mt. Bulusan since it again spewed ash on Friday and some ground deformation was noted around the volcano.

He advised local disaster councils in Sorsogon to be ready for any eventuality. *Mar A. Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

'Bebeng' killed 33, left P1.3B damage

TROPICAL storm "Bebeng" (international name Aere) left 33 people dead and two others missing from flash floods and landslides and P1.27 billion in damage to agriculture and infrastructure, mostly in the Bicol region.

In its latest report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said damage to agriculture was placed at nearly P330 million.

It also estimated the bulk of the infrastructure damage at P1.13 billion. These include national roads and flood control in Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon.

Farmers and livestock owners in Bicol (Region V) and Central Luzon (Region III) sustained losses of P221.1 million and P12.5 million, respectively.

Agriculture officials said Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate in Region V lost 19,206 metric tons of palay representing 0.48 percent of the region's target production for the first half of the year or 25 percent of the national target for the period.

The national disaster agency said other regions in Luzon that were hit by Bebeng were spared from much agricultural damage since farmers had harvested their crops before the storm hit.

"There has been no report of damage to agriculture in Regions I (Ilocos), II (Cagayan Valley), IV-B (Calabarzon), IV-B (Mimaropa), VII (Eastern Visayas) and CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region). Because most of the rice production was harvested before the onset of 'Tropical Storm Bebeng,' the NDRRMC said.

Bebeng intensified into a tropical storm on May 7. It made landfall over northern Catanduanes on May 8 and made a second landfall over northern Quezon to hover before exiting the Philippine area of responsibility on May 11.

The storm unleashed heavy rains that caused flash floods, landslides and power outages, while a tornado hit Calauag, Bicol. *Inquirer*

Most of the 33 fatalities, who either drowned or were buried in landslides, were from Bicol. Two persons from Albay remain missing while nine, mostly in Bicol, were injured. *Reena Pazzibugan*

De Lima: Amending rules of court to speed up justice

DOJ, SC officials to speed up the delivery of justice, the Supreme Court is considering amendments to the rules of court, among them, allowing a judge to have greater participation in the litigation process and requiring higher standards of evidence before an accused can be indicted.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima told reporters "the Supreme Court is seriously considering the revision of rules and coming up with proposals on how to address the serious problem of case congestion, which is one of the primary problems of our justice system."

She said the new rules would only have to be promulgated by the Supreme Court en banc and would not need to be legislated. She said the amendments could be in place "within the year."

The secretary said the subcommittee particularly sought the Department of Justice's opinion on reverting to the "prima facie standard" and abandoning the "probable cause rule" where public prosecutors file cases in the lower courts.

"Probable cause is such a low standard, and has been in effect for the past 20 years. In effect, it's easy to file a case in court based on probable cause, although it's not sure if a trial would prosper," she said.

De Lima said once efforts lag in the trial courts because prosecutors request for postponements as they search for viable evidence. In the meantime, the accused remains lengthy incarceration while constitutes suffer a delay in justice.

This system has created "too much delay" she said. The committee is studying the European style "inquisitorial" system, wherein hearings are limited and the judges can directly interrogate the accused. Jeronna Arcang

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UP business alumni set fete

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Business Administration Alumni Association will hold its induction of officers and trustees on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at its Alcantara House in UP Diliman.

The oath of office will be administered by UP Alumni Association president Gladys S.J. Tongco and witnessed by the new presidents of the UP system, Dr. Alfredo E. Pascual.

The officers are Rebecca P. Alingog, chairman; Hubert F. Ruan, president; Archie A. Tiu-sen, first vice president; Marivic Ecarma-Jala-Ayuyao, second vice president; Melissa S. Salazar Jr., treasurer; Teresita Bolinao-Sorosilla, secretary; Paolo Brandrich Navarro-Aguirre, public relations officer, and Evardone Enriquez-Gan, auditor. The trustees are Ma. Elisa Allado, Frank Capestrano, Dodie Lagman, Teodoro Pangilinan, Antero Soo-Pinedo, Roberto del Rosario and Ma. Teresa Ortigas.

Named one of the College of Business Administration's distinguished alumni in 2002, Alingog is chair and president of Philippine Travel Bank Guam, a distinguished alumni of the college in 2007, is chair of St. Luke's Medical Center.

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Lawyer laments non-extradition

A TDP official of Lancaster Bank in the Philippines, who is wanted by a Makati City court for syndicated estafa, was arrested in the United States last month but has been released because the Philippine government did not seek her extradition, a private lawyer said yesterday.

Joel Beltran, counsel for two complainants in the criminal case against Deutsche Bank executive Gretha Chan, blamed the Department of Justice (DOJ) for not lifting a finger on his request to have Chan extradited.

It is statement, Beltran said he learned that Chan was arrested while trying to cross over to the US at the US-Canada border on April 26. Agents of US Customs and Border Protection held Chan because of a red notice issued by Interpol.

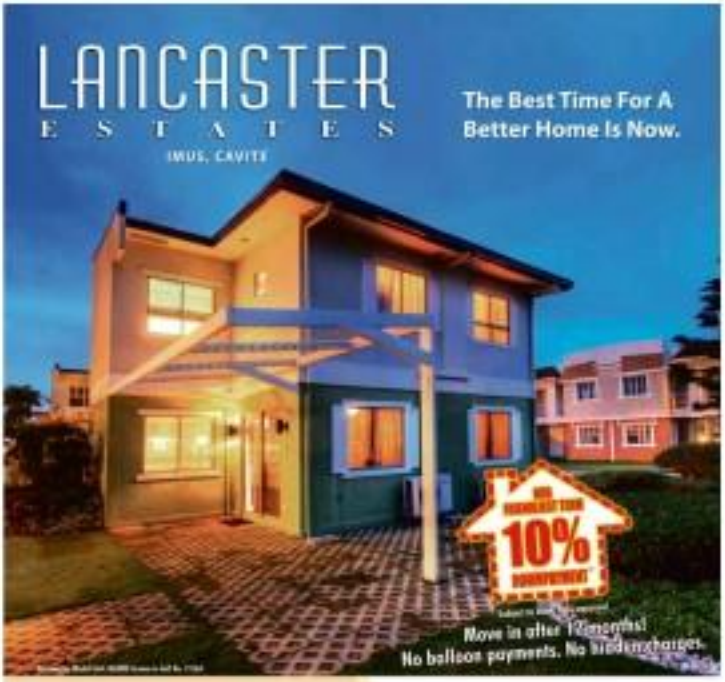
An arrest warrant for Chan had been issued by the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 143.

Beltran said Chan was released on May 10 because the DOJ did not act on his request for her extradition.

"This is a bungled opportunity to have an arrested fugitive extradited to the country to face trial," the lawyer said.

He said he was told by his sources at the DOJ that his extradition request was not granted because Chan still had a pending motion for reconsideration of her arrest warrant.

Aside from Chan, other Deutsche Bank officials facing charges in the RTC are Kenneth Tseng and Patrick Siu. A warrant of arrest against the three was issued by Judge Ernesto Galapate Lagos on Sept. 17, 2010. Jerome Aning



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Across the NATION

Slain forester's family threatened

By Marlowe Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The family of Elpidio "Jojo" Mañaso, 49, received "intimidating" text messages purportedly from the same people, who gunned down the Mt. Makiling forest guard.

The messages, in Filipino, said something like: "We know you know who killed (Mañaso). But better keep silent and not press charges if you do not want your family harmed. We have connections," Dr. Nes Cruz, dean of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, told the Inquirer on Friday.

He also quoted the messages as saying: "If you want, you could just pay someone to have us killed (too)."

Cruz said the text messages were received by Mañaso's wife, Justina, a government employee, on Thursday, three days after Mañaso was shot dead inside a tarpaulin shop in Bay, Laguna.

This was also after Justina had identified two persons as suspects in her husband's slay.

"(The threats were) indirect. We feel like they are intimidating it (the family)," Cruz said.

He refused to identify the two new suspects as police investigation continued, but said the university had provided security for the family and tapped the National Bureau of Investigation to augment the team.

Mañaso's body came from a court hearing on Monday afternoon in Bay as a witness against a certain Armando Javier and Napoleon Olivares who had been charged with violation of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Mañaso proceeded to a tarpaulin shop, where he was shot dead by a lone assailant.

The Bay police identified the gunman as a certain Roberto Ginoova, who remained at large.

Illegal settlers

Cruz said Javier and Olivares were illegal settlers in Mt. Makiling and the case against them was being heard since 2004.

Mañaso had been a forest guard for the last 21 years of the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems (MCME), a unit of CFNR, and part of his job was to "manage and prevent" the construction of more illegal structures in the forest reserve.

Experts of Mt. Makiling, mostly in Barangay Bagong Silang, about 3,000 hectares of illegal structures have been in place for several decades.

In the early '90s, the university had a relocation program for the settlers but "the people refused," Cruz said then.

Authorities, however, have yet to pin the investigation to the land dispute, as Mañaso, known to be a "strict" forest guard, had also lodged several other cases involving illegal pumping or small-scale operations of illegal cutting of trees.

"We are looking into the other cases, even those that were not yet filed in court," Cruz said.

A village official in Los Baños town, who knew Mañaso but requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, said a recent case involving the municipal guard was the arrest of four illegal reservist poachers in Mt. Makiling last month.

"They were arrested and jailed. Then pero se vuelven (the confusion)," the official said.

The official said Mañaso was also offered P100,000 for settlement, but "he refused. He said they'd rather kill him (than make arrangements)."

The remains of Mañaso were cremated on Saturday. Cruz said the university planned to hold tributes at the CFNR this week, which includes receiving Mañaso's ashes on Fri. Makiling.

Radioman gets threat messages after discussing car smuggling

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A broadcaster here has reported receiving a threatening text message on Saturday morning, while analyzing his early morning commentary program over Magnum Radyo 99.5 FM.

Jun Albino, a veteran community journalist and radio commentator, said yesterday he received the text message warning him about meddling further the alleged smuggling activities involving Lyneil Mati Bigtas.

The allegations against Bigtas came following the seizure by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) of 21 luxury cars and motorcycles, including one allegedly stolen from Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, from warehouses here and in Valencia, Bukidnon.

Bigtas remains free, with the NBI admitting that no arrest has been issued yet for his arrest.

Albino, also general manager of Magnum Radyo, said he was doing a commentary on the overlooking of Bigtas' in previous days when he received the text message coming from an unknown number.

The text message reads: "Mr. Albino umdaog ng pg-rerelapsa ky Bigtas kng gusto kpa ensue ate ay para ibalag namn mng ulo ni mng LHEIL Jun Albino, your last warning. Bigcat if you want to live to see the city mayor, 5th will cut your head off." The message was sent from mobile number 0933-1100795.

Albino said he based his commentary on the claim of Bigtas' lawyer, Alejandro Jose Pellagua, that the car dealer was a victim of fellow actress Jolie. Pellagua also maintained that Bigtas did not smuggle the cars and motorcycles seized in the two warehouses two weeks ago.

The NBI had said that it has in its possession a "black book" seized from the twin raids. The black book allegedly contains a list of Bigtas' contacts and clients and supposedly includes police officers, a congressman, a mayor and a police official.

Pellagua also said Bigtas bought the seized cars and motorcycles in the country and, hence, owes the government no single centavo in import duties.

"A person who did not import anything naturally does not have to pay import duties," Pellagua told the Inquirer on Saturday. —JOE. Bwenia, Inquirer Mindanao

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Docs audit maternal death rate

BAGUIO CITY—Doctors have started an audit of the country's rate of maternal deaths after discovering discrepancies due to different measurement standards used by government and private hospitals.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona supported the evidence-thrashing when he led the first of a series of consultations on universal health care by members and retired army health workers.

When asked, Ona said the audit should not affect the debate over a controversial reproductive health bill, which sees poor maternal health conditions in the provinces to justify a law that grants Filipino full access to information about sexuality and reproductive health.

A solid foundation of information about maternal deaths in the Philippines would help the campaign for reproductive health and may improve the country's targets as it tries to fulfill its 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Ona told reporters here.

The MDG is a United Nations program that requires member states to improve their educational, social and health conditions in order to receive poverty.

The Philippines has aimed to reduce maternal deaths or deaths during childbirth to 52 per 100,000 live births in the next four years. But reducing from 2006 figures, Ona said the country has a lot of catching up to do because 162 mothers still die for every 100,000 live births recorded in the country.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) classifies the progress of this target as "low," and said this way "the least likely to be achieved by the Philippines."

Ona addressed the discrepancy in maternal death figures when government doctors in Ifugao reported that the province's recent maternal deaths, which were recorded by local hospitals and health centers in 2010, included women who died outside the province.

Dr. Thelma Dangan, Ifugao health officer, said her office was interested to see a system that counts the health condition of mothers even though they were hospitalized or treated outside the province.

Dr. Sheila Lourdes Guyaya, chief of hospital of the Bontoc Marian Memorial Hospital and Medical Center in Bontoc City, Bontoc North, said their personnel have begun an audit of the province's maternal death figures after they observed the discrepancies that were attributed to flaws in collecting and presenting data.

Ifugao offered the Department of Health's full use of a software her team had designed to collate and assess prenatal and childbirth information that would be supplied by public and private health facilities.

Ona said improving infant care is crucial because it "reflects the quality of care in our communities."

He said previous administrations tried to correct the system by increasing the number of midwives in the provinces.

Ona said this pregnant only encouraged home births, "which proved to be bad" because few homes offer the sanitary conditions required for safe births.

"Some births occur at night and even with professional midwives (prepared to respond at any hour), some homes have no electricity or clean water supply to offer the unwilling candidates a mother-only needs," Ona said.

He said he is now pushing for the creation of birthing facilities or units equipped with basic tools required for safe delivery. The facilities may be set up in rural health units or may be built in remote communities.

Full access to reproductive health is also an MDG target, but the UNDP also indicated that the Philippines has a low probability of achieving this target.

Different figures

Ona said the debate over House Bill 4244 (the proposed Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2011) must be based on statistics like the five million "poorest of the poor" families whose fertility rate measured 5.2 percent. The fertility rate of Filipino families belonging to the middle class and educated but low-income groups dropped to 2.9 percent, he said.

This means that average Filipino families have fewer children than families classified as "very poor," Ona said.

He said the government's quest for better information also involves universal health coverage.

President Aquino wanted every Filipino to be covered by health insurance in three years, but Ona said he promised to fulfill that goal in 2012.

But Ona said he was confused by three different figures that supposedly reflect the membership of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

Phil-Health claims it has achieved an 87 percent coverage, but a University of the Philippines (UP) audit showed that only 37 percent of the population has health insurance, Ona said.

Another UP study commissioned by Phil-Health showed that 54 percent of the population uses health insurance for cost. — Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Calapan bans use of plastics

CITY OF CALAPAN—Starting yesterday, it will be a "no plastic Sunday" for this city courtesy of a recently adopted ordinance banning the use of plastic bags in establishments here.

The "no-plastic Sunday" initiative will be implemented for six months to give time for businesses and other residents here to get used to providing alternative biodegradable and reusable wrapping and packaging materials before the ordinance is fully implemented in January 2012.

The ordinance, passed by the city council on April 29, prohibits the "use and sale of non-biodegradable plastic bags and Styrofoam in the bagging and packaging materials in the city and metes penalty" and sanctions in the city.

The city government decided to ban the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam because they "are the main cause of drainage clogging resulting to flooding," and that "when these are burned, these deplete the ozone layer, which results to global warming and climate change."

The ordinance is Calapan's way of helping save Mother Earth, said Her Mayor Arnan Panlilio in a telephone interview Saturday.

The ordinance encourages alternative packaging materials like using dog trash (newspaper, paniki leaves), coconut shells, and leaves of banana, yambot and kalachuchi.

Under the measure, anyone caught selling goods wrapped in plastic bags will be meted the following penalties: first offense, four hours community service and ₱500 fine; second offense, eight hours community service and a fine of ₱1,000; and third offense, imprisonment of not more than six months and ₱2,500 fine.

The premix of businesses violating the ordinance will be cancelled for one year.

The ban on plastic bags and Styrofoam is under the Green Calapan Program, which was launched by the city government here on May 5, during the Mas Philippine Earth pageant.

Mayor Paulino "Tiny" Lesaca, in a statement, said he was giving his full support to the program, as "more than the infrastructure, the transformation of people and culture are more important." — Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

More than money

EDITORIAL

IN THE two resolutions on the Carlos Garcia plea bargain agreement that the Sandiganbayan issued on May 9, the anti-graft court's Second Division equated the interest of the government with the recovery of property. In other words, it understood the legal issue in terms of money. Justice, which the judges conflated with the need to protect the government's interest in the case, means getting Garcia, the military comptroller who earned a mere five-figure monthly salary, to part with some of his unexplained wealth.

Assuming for the moment that the Second Division is right, the inevitable next question is: Why settle only for P135 million? The amount is not even half of the P300 million Garcia was found to have owned, when the authorities finally caught up with him, in what way is forfeiting less than 45 percent of a military officer's unexplained wealth in the country's best interests—especially when evidence found by the Anti Money Laundering Council, ignored by the Office of the Ombudsman but aired during a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing, suggests that Garcia's wealth at one time may have even topped P700 million?

On its own terms, then, the Second Division must be judged to have fallen far short of its own mediocre objectives. Its green lighting of a plea bargain to shield the official with unexplained wealth was allowed to keep 55 percent of the amount discovered in unexplained to an act of surrender. As former Supreme Court Chief Justice Art Panganiban pointed out in his column yesterday, if Garcia's counsel thought the evidence against his client was in fact weak, as the Second Division asserted, then he would have filed a demurrer to the evidence.

But is the central legal issue in the Garcia case only about money? That is a narrow view of the responsibilities that the people entrust to the Office of the Ombudsman which prosecutes graft and corruption cases and to the Sandiganbayan which hears them. (In fact, the very plea bargain—essentially a deal with an official caught red-handed—was one reason why an overwhelming majority of congressmen voted to impeach Merceditas Gutierrez.) Forfeiting illegal wealth in favor of the government is an important task, but it isn't the only or even the principal demand in any graft and corruption case.

The central issue must be to do justice, as the people define it and as the agencies of government are duty-bound to understand it: punishing the corrupt, stopping the scourge of corruption. Stopping at a money settlement, stopping short of what the law itself demands, falls to meet that issue head-on.

To be completely fair, the lawyer of the two resolutions, the one written by Justice Samuel Martires which dismissed the Motion to Intervene filed by the Office of the Solicitor General, discussed the attendant legal issues in great depth. But many of the nuances that Martires took pains to make were in fact interpretations, and could just have as easily been interpreted in another way. (For instance, his notion that the Ombudsman represented the aggrieved party without whose consent any plea bargain agreement would be void.)

There is no question about the end result, however. The resolution effectively enables corruption, in the military as well as in government in general, to continue.

It shows us that even undisputed proof of direct bribery can be smeared away—though the judges themselves may confess to sharing the public's amazement over the Garcia family's great and unexplained wealth.

It shows us that tragic shortcomings in the prosecution's search for evidence can be excused—though the Office of the Ombudsman was demonstrably remiss in its duties.

It shows us that government officials can continue to keep much of their unexplained wealth, wealth generated during their government service—even though they failed to follow the law and explain the true sources of their income.

Not least, it shows us that justice understood only in terms of money is not justice at all, but a reward for corruption.

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The TSI-Sepco fight; the BSP-BF fight

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LABOR-TSI has come and gone, but hundreds of pisonet store-handlers formerly employed by manpower service agency Sepco & Staffco Inc. (TSI) remain unpaid for what was another five days shorn, almost a year after they were given their walking papers.

These pisonet store-handlers ("promo-diaries" for short) have been employed by TSI to work for Samsung Electronics Philippines Corp. (Sepco), the local distributors and marketing arm of the giant Korean manufacturer. "Promo-diaries" are those salespersons who attend to customers in appliances stores.

When Sepco and TSI had a falling out last year, these promo-diaries were left without work because of a "no work, no pay" clause in their contracts.

Dozens of these promo-diaries filed a complaint against TSI with the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) in Cebu. Their grievances are revealing. They claimed that TSI refused to release their remaining salaries for the period June 16-30, 2016, refused to release their cash bonds, their 13th month pay covering Jan. 1-June 30, 2016 and their SSS loans.

TSI offered to pay their last salary and cash bond only upon execution of the "cessation of work form." The law prohibited the worker's from seeking employment immediately after the termination of their services. (How are they going to find their families?) They were threatened with legal action if they sought employment with other agencies.

"Should you continue to work in your respective assignments for Samsung after June 30, 2016, unless advised accordingly, you will be considered in violation of your Contract of Employment with TSI. Such violation will not be tolerated by TSI and will be acted upon accordingly," TSI's letter to the workers warned.

The complainants are now claiming that TSI has refused to release their benefits and back pay, including their six subsidy and their P13,000 cash bond, despite the law that the law is clear on such cases. The letter of the tax refund, for instance, is clear: It required in BIR Regulations 10-2008 Section 3 (D) on Annualized Withholding Tax Method that says: "In case of termination of employment before December, the refund shall be given to the employee in the payment of the last compensation during the year."

The disputes that TSI's month pay is likewise stipulated in the labor department's memorandum dated October 28 which says: "The payment of the 13th month pay may be demanded by the employee upon the cessation of the employer-employee relationship."

The plight of the hundreds of ex-TSI employees who were forced to sign the work cessation forms is the same. They have left with hopes less stalled as its promo-diaries, who were forced to either sign the waivers or just go their merry way.

Why punish the poor promo-diaries? If TSI is really the responsible merchant that it claims it is, then it should treat its workers with a little more respect and not use them as bargaining chips.

The issue is particularly painful for hundreds of the promo-diaries in the provinces. TSI has reportedly pulled out its provincial representatives because some promo-diaries in the Visayas and Mindanao ran the budget common there. There were the some people whom the promo-diaries could have looked to for help since they're from the provinces. Without anyone from TSI to talk to, these promo-diaries are finding it next to impossible to claim their benefits and refunds.

Will the Department of Labor please do something for the poor workers?

* * *

The fight in the media between the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and Banco Filipino (BF) is getting more bitter. BF seems to be desperately fighting for its recapitalizing and to this end the BSP seems so desperate in having BF closed and closed forever.

Two months after that day of March 17, 2011, when officers of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) stamped down on the BF offices and announced that that monetary board had placed the bank under receivership due to insolvency, BF has finally launched a propaganda drive questioning every act of the BSP and telling most lies.

Will the owners and officers of BF continue to fight this hard if it was in fact insolvent? Already as its financial records will easily show whether or not it is insolvent. The over-and-costly legal basis for closing a bank is the test of insolvency. Even charges of anomalous banking practices do not have a bearing on a bank's closure. These would be met by regulatory punitive measures less not insolvent closure.

On the other hand, after BSP shut down BF (BSP-bad) its own publicity campaign to justify its action. Relying on testimonies that should be beyond reproach, the BSP should simply have been quiet, confident of its decisions and resting on explanations in the public records on the issues of law.

Every act, then, BSP has had to announce in media various unusual banking practices that BF supposedly has committed. Business columnists were furnished information that should have been highly confidential.

Has anyone given the BSP the power to interfere? That is the media issue, in fact the only issue.

The Supreme Court came out with a definitive ruling on a bank's insolvency in the case of BF v. BSP (204 SCRA 787). The BSP lost in that case. The real estate assets of BF were shown to be worth more than the liabilities of the bank. The SC said that the basis for the evaluation of assets to determine insolvency is the "prevailing market value" and not the "book value" of the assets.

Imagine

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LEE IACOCCA sang John Lennon's "Imagine" last week at the launch of the "people edition" campaign, and no song could be more apt.

That song of course has become a virtual anthem for peace: a thing that has caused space and time, geography and generation, through let a song that sounds almost prose that poorly though that is probably its source, the childlike simplicity or sweetness with which it puts things. It's also [censored] simplicity of a [censored] loved from birth. "You have my life a dreamer," it says, "but I'm not the only one." And true enough, to go by the longevity and vast increase, up to the day of the song, he is not.

But that song is even more apt, as sung by Salonga before the BSP auditorium, in one respect. I've heard "Imagine" sung in all sorts of places, ever in its final case, but I've always wondered if people really listened closely to the lyrics. Especially the part that says "Imagine there's no countries/ It isn't hard to do/ Nothing to kill or die for/ And no religion too."

That last line has always unnerved the aspect of a footnote, or something as conveniently atop that its contents needs thinking about, especially these days. No religion? Are they joined in the same breath as particular forms of the kind that makes people kill and die, well, the one about go hand in hand, probably far more so today than yesterday.

I know atheists debate religion in general as a matter of style, but I would like to consider the Philippine Catholic Church in particular in that light today. What is at stake in the RH debate is in fact is not just the future of RH, it is the future of that Church. Institution matters it to read—the hardest, not even the last decade or so the shepherd has seemed the more for that to flock. Enough for the members of the flock, pursuant of some moral GPS, also called thinking Catholics or running Filipinos (which are not necessarily a contradiction in terms), to wonder how long it can go on as it is and should be.

In the end, the Church's opposition to RH doesn't draw attention to RH, it draws attention to itself. It draws attention to—not doing, in particular, one concrete of contraception, the other a matter of imitation. One a matter of benighted morality, the other a matter of poor opportunity.

The first is mired bogging assumption itself. I assailed the "purple edition" every last month, and the first thing that struck me was why this was necessary at all. Why is God's name—yes, his, as here—do we have to have a dose of these and not to be able to go to movie an effort to voluntarily limit family size? there we censored the [censored]? Has somebody else out of Bondbuster has left us bring to draw. Unless we cease to consider those countries known for mass miscarriages for committing genocide against their millions upon millions of "unborn children."

Indonesia, the country with the biggest Muslim population in the world, has been practicing family planning for the last 30 years which has brought down the average number of children in a family from six to seven in the 1970s to three today. Truly, we have to ask if the Philippine Catholic Church, if not religion itself, is an impediment to simply getting to seven and progress.

The irony of it is that its opposition to RH is being passed off as a defense of life, which is a case of us once seeing too much and too little. It sees what is not there, or the statistical existence of the "unborn children," but does not see what is there, which is the quality of life of the very real born children. Whose teeming numbers assure a vicious cycle of misery. But I've said my piece on this before, and will leave it at that.

By more fundamentally, there's the Church's air of confusion, or stunning one-up-manship on Filipinos (RH) is getting more bitter. BF seems to be desperately fighting for its recapitalizing and to this end the BSP seems so desperate in having BF closed and closed forever.

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Imagine

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

There's no lack of moral issues, and he more obdurate ones than the Church could be supporting. If you leading us to rule of moral guide lads to do, which it is stringently critiquing us. Has the least of them, being the fight against corruption which this government, however you quibble about its attempts and causes, seems determined to wage. While the Church is summoning all its resources and dredging its memory, it is not showing anywhere on its faithful to pulpits—Jose Ma's "Iyo" has a trillion some than shown that in full glory, as we haven't sincerely left the 20th century, never mind the 21st—to fight corruption more. It allows it very real one to rise to its standards. Certainly not as much as it is showing.

What could be more patently moral than that? Corruption kills the body, corruption kills the soul. By all rights, the Church should be making the foundation in the fight against it.

But it is not.

Only a few years ago in San, it was tearing its the foundation in the fight for it. That was during the time of Ulilt when the bishops rallied to defend not just the corruption that had to do with smuggling money but the corruption that had to do with drugs. A defense of corruption that served to the Church profiting from it. I don't know how many of the faithful remained faithful as a result of it. I do know we did not look for people patently threatening to stop being so from disgust and frustration.

And now this. It sounds so vague, shorely before case, some parishioners of a church in Bangalore were injured to have stood up and left when the priest challenged supporters of BJP in the pulpit. The Church is not in the fight against it, and it must to just those a lot of parishioners might be leaving. Truly you have to wonder if it's the RH advocates or the Church itself that has to ask the question, "Quo vadis?"

It's enough to make you sing, "Imagine there's no people; it isn't hard to do." Nothing to die for/ And no religion too."

Fires and violence

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

I have heard ordinary people as far back as the martial law years state that they believed the government set the fires

The post-fire image of the jitney simply states more: a danger lurking in or near houses that have been surrounded by fire. It does not do away with the need for the legal requirements of a thorough, ongoing investigation with the people involved.

There is a grim detail of cynicism inserted in all forms of post-fire analysis: a place in Caloocan, Laguna, Cebu, Legaspi or the Bicol area. Basically, the conspiration proceeds to measure and lure imagination in to making Caloocan a successful television area, but as of last year the affected city was unable to provide the jobs needed. The cycle of urban poor life is all about work. They come to slums to work. They have to live in dirt to get to work. They realize relocation due to fire finds their work, and if they wind up without jobs in distant relocation centers, they will return to the city to work. There are not near enough jobs in Caloocan. It is fair to send poor families there?

If the government tries to bypass legal steps and force the issue of relocation there is little or no evidence. Stalemate has clear zero advantages: it may stop eviction efforts, but it is doubtful it serves the good of the poor in the long run.

It doesn't help the country's image either. Investors may think if such trouble can happen in the poorer locations of the city of the country, what does it do like to far off Metropolitan Manila?

There is room to documents of existence, some measure of understanding should be given to ordinary men and women when they find that the government instead of working to help them in a reliable way is destroying them. They may remember what goals drive government and they may respect the words. What are they to think when the city gives them P5,000 P5,000 provided the least by tenants in legal right to relocation?

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo seems to have been able to help meet out a peaceful and reasonable plan with the people. It can be done. The ordinary poor people are realistic and rarely seek more than fair treatment.

There are significant local governments are done and there are other cities, such as Quezon City, have handed out deposits from the law as exploited in the Urban Development and Housing Act. Can the Commission on Human Rights see its own existence look into this matter of fires and evidence? Can the Department of Justice investigate?

Denis Murphy works with the Citizen Peace Assistance. His email address is opedd@hkbbs.net.

Chant the RH mantras

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

(interesting audible) without being asked, that "We have the Pulse Asia and SWS surveys behind us, where the respondents did not have to pay 2.50 to vote in their answers." Precisely the trouble with surveys. We are pleased with their only when the results are to our liking. But when a scoring 85 percent is against the bill?

It is the staggering public who will pay the costs of the RH Bill, truly a bonanza in multinational pharmaceuticals. Going here to finishing the work done counterproductive to active approach to educating the public. This approach will be facilitate the misery of overconception a long.

We have much to learn from one of the most recent contraception magnificent of the world. To quote Prime Minister Jean Chrétien given that when G8 **foreign ministers meeting in Emmens, Canada**, Chrétien thanked the host Canadian government, a conservative at the moment, for hosting on maternal health by refusing discussion on contraception.

"The G8 respected our position," Chrétien said. He cited, but I will say that I've worked in this area for many years, and if we're talking about maternal health, you cannot have maternal health without reproductive health. And reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortion." (underscoring mine)

There you have it. A dogma it is not.

Besides the Catholic studies we learn how claim, and for the Chinese learnt that contraception and abortion are, verily, conjoined twins. Thank you, Mrs. Clinton.

The US Secretary of State could use have obtained over the fact that in Canada, the birth control pill was legalized there in 1969, the same year it legalized abortion. Just a year after, Canada Statistics reported 11,152 abortions. Today that number is a whopping 100,418, years fold increase since 1970. And yet how pervasive is contraception use in Canada? The World Health Organization reports that "among Canadian women age 15-44, 66 percent report using the pill."

There is no culture or antecedent in the world that has permitted contraception and then has not gone on to permit abortion," writer Natalie Angier in the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

"As acceptance of contraception increases, so does acceptance of abortion. Why is this the case? It becomes a the root of contraception to the notion that a couple can engage in sexual activity and avoid the consequences of pregnancy, that the intentionally conceive a child while using contraception are far more likely to resort to abortion than others.

"Contraception allows one understanding of human sexuality by changing its purpose. Not of lives, are for reaching and affect the way that we understand relationships, gender roles and the human psyche. Contraception has fundamentally been positioned as a means of women's emancipation. Yet the rise of the birth control pill has actually coincided with a dramatic increase in the feminization of poverty. Women's bodies have become a testing ground for pharmaceutical companies to test products from the start that the sexual contraceptives of the can be avoided, women have been subjected to dangerous side effects, fertility cycles become chemically controlled, and contraception can also be used to hide the evidence of abuse that is sometimes perpetrated among young or marginalized women."

"It is a lot to ask," Dr. Margaret Sleeper, Emmens Rep. Janet Gavin, nurses to the Hippocratic oath, says. If my understanding is correct, I suppose the Gates Morales was correct are lying in the public that we have to make an informed decision on the RH Bill? Mr. Thompson that no a doctor was disclosing all the medical consequences to a patient. No wonder the ignorance is much.

Have sailed Dutch Kindding on the Philippines' doors. Rin close the business.

Comments to antonio.montalvan@gmail.com

The Battle of the Temples

WORLD VIEW

Thitinan Pongsudhirak

BANGKOK—THE military skirmishes between Thailand and Cambodia that have claimed more than two dozen lives, caused scores of injuries and displaced tens of thousands of people since February are primarily attributable to domestic politics in both countries. Rooted in nationalistic emotions and the legacy of the colonial era, the fighting is dangerous for entire region. Its virulence is the deepest that even a cross-term entitlements will require third party coordination. A senior peace will depend mainly on how the respective governments in Thailand's domestic political plays out in the coming months—and on Cambodia's willingness to step out of this process.

At issue is the conflict's 4th square kilometers of territory around the Preah Vihear temple complex, or "Preah Vihear" in Cambodian and "Phra Viharn" in Thai. Cambodia claims that the disputed land has been under its territorial sovereignty since a landmark case decided by the International Court of Justice in 1962. In the 11 months, the ICJ ruled that Cambodia's map, drawn up by French surveyors in 1908-1907, put the temple area in Cambodia, and that Thailand (known as Siam until 1939) had no territorial claim to the area. The ICJ's ruling was unanimous and invited the ICJ to rule on the adjoining land, but the judges confined their decision only to the temple, as Cambodia originally requested.

The French-made map became the core of the dispute, with Thailand claiming it lacked geographic precision. Thailand argues the ridge, which concentrates a French-Siamese agreement in 1904 stipulating a demarcation along a watershed line—separating the two countries. Moreover, the French mapping office took place just a decade after Siam ceded a chunk of territories—much of today's western Cambodia—to France, which was then perched above indochina as the colonial power. Under duress, the Siamese court was compelled to sign a host of unequal treaties with European powers in exchange for maintaining its independence.

Thailand finally the overlapping claims on the 4.6 sq km area—not a serious issue. Villagers and merchants from both sides continued a lively business and border trade unhindered by the authorities. Bilateral tensions flared when Thai politics turned ugly after the September 2006 military coup that overthrew then-democratically elected prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, on charges of corruption and abuse of power. Thaksin's populist policies and his confrontational style of politics polarized Thai society, pitting his supporters, mainly the rural poor and urban working class, against the royalist establishment, the military and the urban middle class.

Thaksin's ouster was followed by a royalist backlash against his supporters, who were mostly members of the Thai Rak Thai Party. Thaksin fled into exile and was convicted in absentia of corruption charges. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, led the Pheu Thai Party to victory in the July 2011 election, and she became prime minister in August.

Thaksin's opponents, the royalist establishment, the military and the Democrat Party, have been out of power since 2001. Their return to power in December 2008 was engineered by the military and the royal court. Thaksin's supporters have been out in the cold since then, and they have been agitating for his return and for the restoration of their political power.

Cambodia's domestic politics are also at play. Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power since 1985 and has ruled with an iron fist. His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has dominated the political landscape, and Hun Sen has used the military and the police to suppress opposition and dissent. Hun Sen's rule has been characterized by rampant corruption, cronyism and nepotism. Cambodia's democratic institutions are weak, and the country's human rights record is poor.

Hun Sen's regime has been challenged by the Sam Rainsy Party, led by Sam Rainsy, a former finance minister who has been in exile since 2009 to avoid prison on charges of defamation and destroying property. Hun Sen has used the border conflict with Thailand to whip up nationalistic fervor and to rally support behind his government. Sam Rainsy has been criticized for his stance on the border issue, and his party has been accused of being unpatriotic.

The conflict has also been fueled by the presence of the Khmer Rouge, the communist movement that ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 and was responsible for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people. The Khmer Rouge has been a source of instability in the region, and its presence has complicated efforts to resolve the border dispute

No reciprocity at all in VFA

LETTERS

"RECIPROCITY" HOLLERED the Philippines' local online military glurgers. They've got valid fears to demand for it. Inasmuch as Order 29 introduces an "open skies" regime into the country. The government should heed their call, or else online gripes of error-ometers would soon drive local airlines out of business.

Reciprocity is a universal principle in international agreements. It is, among other things, grounded on equity. But didn't our noncommon sense think that it was not taken into consideration in the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) ( ) and (? Perhaps, the Filipinos' rush sense of rhetoric won't allow grey to rise to the 2147 Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement) than the United States won't put one over us, inside our local negotiators forgot to factor into our VFA with the US this important principle of reciprocity.

Let me explain one size of the disparities in the VFA (3) of VFA ( ) documents of (1) military names while in the Philippines) speaks of "vehicles, vessels, and aircraft operated by or for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing or port fees, navigation or over-flight charges, or other similar taxes, dues, or charges, including lights and harbor dues, while in the Philippines."

Article (I) (documents of Philippine military assets) while in the USA, speaks of "Vehicles, vessels, and aircraft by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall not be subject to the payment of landing or port fees, navigation or overflight charges, road tolls or any other charges for the use of United States military installations which do not constitute fair and reasonable charges for services requested and received."

The US military personnel and assets can enter anywhere in the country in duty pursuit, while they have done so the Subic Bay International Airport and Sangley's whereas, supposedly, that we have lost count have many times. But the Philippine Air Force's base C130, or the Tora-Tora (I say will come), can only do so in a US military in unification like Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., and not at Newark in New Jersey or LAX in Los Angeles, which are both commercial international airports, or else it will be slapped with a bevy of fines and charges. And the carriers' and AFP's request should not, in US judgment, constitute fair and reasonable charges, otherwise it shall be assessed and billed for, say, use of a military camp's passenger terminal services. If this is what the United States calls reciprocal, I don't know what is.

Since the Senate is poised to review, or scrap, the VFA, our senators, led by our senate in the senate, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, should correct this injustice. Never yet, just scrap the agreement and, if need be, write a new one.

—TED PEÑAFLOR II,
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tedpeñaflor@yahoo.com

One rotten apple doesn't a bad tree make

THE ONGOING investigation into corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines is, doubtless, a welcome development in the campaign to root out massively pervasive in government. This shows that our public officials are finally waking up and something is being done to combat greed and selfishness among our public servants.

However, this and recent events have severely damaged the image of the AFP in the eyes of the very people it is supposed to serve and protect.

Quite a large number of our countrymen—40 percent, according to a survey conducted by Pulse Asia—feeling the pulled adverse views concerning AFP officials were being reported in the media...and consider the AFP as the most corrupt agency of our government. It is comforting to see that the perception was based on the wrongful actions of a few individuals. Inferring the faults of a few to the entire body or institution is unfair to the vast majority of soldiers who have faithfully dedicated their lives to noble service to country.

Let more not be quick to jump into the conclusion that the entire AFP is corrupt just because a handful of "bad apples" are found in its midst. That these "apples" are being uncovered—or suspected of committing mind-boggling corruption does not mean that everyone in the institution has the same propensity for greed. One rotten apple does not a bad tree make.

—ROBERT C. ORTEGA,
pcorrgal@yahoo.com

Tigao criticized on 'distorted' OFW myths

THIS IS a very short reaction—two sentences only, as our dad's wont to give weight and dignity Rigoberto D. Tiglao's March 12 column, "What he should tell OFWs."

Tiglao's article only exposes his own insensitivity. He is not in a position to tell us, the 10 million overseas Filipinos workers and our dependents, his true concerns and real circumstances.

—WILLIAM LEONARD DE GUZMAN,
Middle East regional coordinator,
bilgasan_migrasanet@yahoo.com

'Gold old days': setting the NPO record straight

THERE ARE references to Gonzalo-Jacinto-Sison-era-dubbed "Gold old days," Diaryo, 3/9/11). He claimed that "things never change at the National Printing Office...or the NPO, the government agency in charge of the printing of official forms."

In this connection, we would like to ask the said, a respected journalist, to take time to examine the state of the present leadership of the NPO on each and every issue he claimed or discussed in his column. In addition to that, facts have been misled by his sources (s). Allow us to shed light on the matter and set the record straight.

On the issue that the LGUs were forced to order all their official forms from the NPO's past that the "paying cost" had gone up threefold or even fourfold, we would like to emphasize that the NPO doesn't have to force the LGUs to order and/or procure their forms from us. Existing laws and issuances on the matter (EO 285, EO 378, MC 186, GAA 2000 and 2010 and CPPR Resolution No. 009-2010) need no further interpretation. "Ten ipso kapisan." (The thing speaks for itself.)

Further, the present leadership of the NPO is barely seven months in office. It is highly impossible and extremely impractical for us to raise the prices of printing by as three or four times higher than current rates without courting violent reactions from end-users, not to mention the fact that there are four BOPs (recognized government patents) authorized to operate by government agencies. As a matter of fact, the NPO has gradually lowered the price of some, if not all, of its forms despite the request of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to review, for possible upgrading, all the fees collected by the NPO in compliance with the EO 292 (Revised Administrative Code of 1987) that has not been updated since its effectivity in October 2004 yet. This therefore, belies the report that we have increased our price three or four times.

As to the alleged huge savings made during the time of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, that supposedly is indicative corruption that whatever savings the NPO earned from its operations (unaudited and otherwise), these were remitted to the Bureau of Treasury. Not a single one of these savings was used or spent by the NPO for its operations and/or other purposes. (NPO does not enjoy fiscal autonomy unlike other agencies. All its income goes to the national coffers. As to how much the NPO has remitted to the Bureau of Treasury on a regular basis, this can be checked with the bureau itself.

Last but not the least, we vehemently deny the alleged insertion of the LCEs in the GAA. What has been inserted in the GAA is the provision of APO (reduction text as an RSE. This is used in between government entities only—the NPO and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

—EMMANUEL C. ANDAYA,
acting director,
National Printing Office,
andaya77@yahoo.com

Contractors in big-ticket project are all Filipinos

WE REFER to Paolo Montevilla's news report which was sub-titled "Part of Turkey-Singapore-La United Engineering study by August 2012," Diaryo, 5/6/11).

Private risks Inc. (PRI) is the concessionaire of the Turkey-Philippines-La United Engineering (TPLEE) Project. Thirty five percent of PRI, a bid to SMC, and 50 percent by 13 Filipino AAA contractors led by DMCI Holdings Inc. The other contractors are Bird Concrete Inc., Construction & Associates Inc., Chiffonier Gonzalez Inc., EO Policarpio & Co. Inc., New Kaisham Construction Inc., R. Martin & Co. Inc., Rockford Development Corp., Rose Builders Inc., JV Angeles Construction Corp. and EO Corp.

The project cost for the development of TPLEX is estimated at P13.5 billion. Funding will be coming from a combination of external loans (60 percent), equity (20 percent) and Philippine government subsidy (15 percent).

We are making this clarification to the public to inform that Filipino contractors are capable of undertaking major infrastructure projects.

—ROGELIO M. SINGSON,
chairman and CEO,
Private Infrastructure Corp.,
Gate 1, Upper General,
Pioneer Highlands Condominium,
Sumo 2, Pioneer cor. Madison Avenue,
Mandaluyong City 1300

Bikefest sets stage for Roxas entry to Cabinet

From page A1

olds, at the launch of the Department of Health's nationwide fitness program dubbed "Oras ng Pagkilos ngan Para sa Lahat 2011."

Biking with the President were other members of the Cabinet, more prominently Ochoa and Roxas, both known to belong to rival factions.

Roxas heads the so-called Balay House group while Ochoa is linked to the Samar House which, in turn, is said to be led by the group of Vice President Jejomar Binay.

The two factions have remained at odds since last year's elections campaign in which Binay beat Roxas to win the vice presidency.

Where's Binay?

Binay was not around. His aides said the Vice President was on a private engagement in Batangas.

Dr. Eric Tayag of the Department of Health said the agency had invited all government officials, including Binay, to the event.

Asked whether the presence of Roxas indicated the latter was now "in," Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang said Roxas had previously appeared in this Palace, citing last week's luncheon organized by Mr. Aquino for Liberty Party senators.

"I guess he's saying himself into the pic," Carandang said of Roxas.

He stressed that Roxas would only appear at Palace functions upon the invitation of the President.

A treasure

In a speech, Mr. Aquino underscored the need for people to exercise for good health.

"Health is a treasure we should give importance to and one way to take care of it is to regularly exercise," Mr. Aquino said from a stage.

He said the nation needed healthy people to boost progress and stressed that the country was prepared to reach the "finish line."

Mr. Aquino kicked off the program by leading a bike-riding Cabinet members and other officials, including Energy Secretary Jose Rhommel Almendras and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino.

Other Cabinet members like Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman took part in an aerobics exercise.

Also present were Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, Carandang and deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Roxas' functions

Carandang said the President's love of exercise for now was biking.

"He goes biking whenever he gets the chance," Carandang said. "Whether going home to Tarlac, he brings his bike along."

He also said the Presidential Management Staff was still putting the finishing touches to the administrative order defining Roxas' functions as chief of staff.

Also joining the bike ride was Justice Aquino, son of the President's sweetie Shalani Kris Aquino, who was with other celebrities on the stage.

DUARING UP President Aquino adjusts his safety helmet before joining "Sherisays Pangkalusugan Para sa Lahat 2011" around Quezon Memorial Circle. NONOY ESPINA

DA to learn everything it can about farmers, fishermen

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture will conduct the first-ever census of farmers and other agricultural workers to find out the sector's gaps and vulnerabilities.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said DA regional and provincial offices would interview farmers, fisherfolk and food producers in 83 provinces under the Gift Unified and Enterprise Geospatial Information System, otherwise known as Kasapulanhuan ng Agrikultura (gasa sa Maralid na Kinasasaan, or Kasamaka).

The census, which was began in some towns in Southern Luzon in late April, will go full blast next week in Quezon, Alcala's province.

Farmers in two other provinces—Leyte in the Visayas and Sultan in Mindanao—will undergo similar interviews this year. It is expected that the survey will be finished in 2014.

Responses of the farmers and data gathered from the interviews will be encoded in the Kasama Ka database, which includes the National Farmers' Registry System, the Inventory System of Agriculture and Fishery Investments, and the Geographic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones (GAFDZs) thematic maps.

The database will constitute a clear and complete picture, or a detailed map, of the country's agricultural landscape, Alcala said.

"This database will therefore enhance the DA's responsiveness, quality of public service, and effectiveness in helping improve the lives of our farmers and fisherfolk through appropriate policies and programs," he said.

The DA assured respondents that their personal information would remain confidential.

Kristine L. Alave

Palace sees no terror backlash against P-Noy visit to ship

By Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan and Jerome Aning

OFFICIALS shrugged off fears that President Aquino's visit to the US aircraft carrier from which Osama bin Laden's body was buried at sea would encourage groups in the Philippines sympathetic to the cause of the al-Qaeda leader to launch retaliatory attacks.

"No, I don't think there is going to be a backlash ... I don't think it will do that sort of thing," Communications Secretary Sixto Cantandang said a day after the President and a few Cabinet members toured the USS Carl Vinson on Saturday to the South China Sea as it neared Philippine waters.

The nuclear-powered warship was responsible for bringing the helicopters a US Navy SEAL team into Abbottabad, Pakistan, that raided the house where bin Laden was hiding and killed him early this month.

An umbrella organization of Bangsamoro civil society groups and Filipino-Muslims were dismayed by the visit of the US aircraft carrier.

Muruddin dismissed what it called the "insensitivity" of the Philippine government in allowing the American warship to drop anchor in Manila Bay.

"This show of arrogance and intolerance by US will be source of the radicalization of Muslim youths," Muruddin, secretary general Nash Pangkapian said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Last week, Muruddin members participated in a rally of Manila-based Filipino-Muslim and staged re-marth on the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard to show their outrage over the manner of Bin Laden's killing and burial.

Cantandang said the country had a defense treaty with the United States and that the Aquino's visit of the US Navy aircraft carrier was a "normal part" of that cooperation.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that during a recent meeting with members of the team that attacked Bin Laden, they expressed concerns about the security of their families.

American officials agreed shortly after Bin Laden was killed not to release any operational details on the commando assault. Gates said, but added "that left open—the next day."

"We are looking at what measures can be taken to ramp up the security," Gates said.

Philippine police have said they would step up security in Manila, where militant groups have threatened to stage protests against the US warship's visit.

A Philippine military spokesperson declined that the presence of the USS Carl Vinson would attract retaliation from Bin Laden's sympathizers.

"I don't think that will happen," Commodore Miguel Rodriguez said.

He said the military had not found any specific terrorist threat against the crew of the carrier, which docked Saturday with three other warships—the USS Bunker Hill, USS Shiloh and USS Lindsey—for a first-day "routine port call and goodwill visit" until May 18.

"Terrorists will strike at any opportunity whether the (USS Carl) Vinson is here or not. That's why we are always on alert," Rodriguez said.

He pointed out that the warship was quite "far" from land as it was docked 4 kilometers from Mt Mull of Asia in Pasay City.

"They have their security measures and as best matter, we also have security measures to protect our visitors. An retaliatory attacks would be remote," Rodriguez added.

Capt. Bruce Lindsey, skipper of the USS Carl Vinson, said at a press briefing on the ship that his unit has crew felt "very comfortable" in the Philippine capital.

US sailors mum

From page A1

ed ... We're not supposed to discuss it even with our family members," said one of them.

About 15 percent of the 6,000 crew of the Carl Vinson Carrier Group are Filipino-Americans.

The 97,000-ton Carl Vinson, which is in Manila for a four-day goodwill visit, is the same warship that hosted Bin Laden's scientists in the north Arabian Sea after he was killed during a raid by US Navy Seals on his Pakistan hideout earlier this month.

Weighted bag

On May 2, the body of the architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States was placed in a "weighted bag," put on a flat board and tipped into the sea, according to an Associated Press report.

Senior US officials had claimed his body was disposed of in accordance with Islamic traditions, which involve ritual washing, dressing and burial within 24 hours.

Bin Laden was buried at sea because no country would accept his remains, the officials also said.

Asked by a reporter about the ship's "part in history," Lindsey declined comment.

"Hey my though ... (But) every day, if you're a sailor in the US Navy, you're a part of history. Every day that you come aboard a ship and have a chance to serve with sailors is an opportunity to participate in history," he said.

Excited sailors

Lindsey said "the morale (of the 6,000 crew of the Carl Vinson carrier group) has been phenomenal."

He said the sailors were absolutely consistent in their response. "We should be seeing like the presence of a port visit in Manila be just that morale going through the roof. I have some very, very excited sailors here," he said.

Lindsey noted that "whether it's the first time or the 10th time, a port visit in the Philippines is always memorable. There are many opportunities to make a positive impact wherever we go, and the Philippines is a great place to carry on that legacy of the Navy just that."

Aquino visit

Lindsey confirmed reports that during President Aquino's visit to the Carl Vinson on Saturday, a re-documentation took place about the sailor's participation in the US attack in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and Bin Laden's subsequent sea burial.

The captain of the aircraft carrier said they "discussed a number of (things, (including) our partnership and our commitment to regional security."

"(Mr. Aquino) (discussed a lot about what his administration has done with our Filipino-American sailors. He gave a very interesting discussion and a summary of what his administration has done to the Philippines," he added.

The President was given a special tour of the Carl Vinson while the vessel was on its way.

Rear Adm. Samuel Perez, head of the Carl Vinson-led Carrier Strike Group, said "every sailor has put in a tremendous effort on this deployment."

"We are very fortunate to visit the Philippines, which has a rich history and a very special relationship with the US Navy," Perez added.

In a statement, the carrier group said that during its "first port visit after 52 consecutive days at sea, several events have been planned to maximize the opportunity to interact with Filipino nationals."

Soccer tours

The Carl Vinson, which is escorted by three other US warships, is also "holding a soccer team to play a friendly game with Philippine Navy sailors, and holding community service projects that would allow US sailors to volunteer their time and skills to benefit the community."

The US Embassy said US Navy sailors would help in the construction of a habitat in Cabanatuan City and visit a children's orphanage in Makati City.

"We are truly fortunate to have been chosen by the USS Carl Vinson and the (USS) to be visited and touch part of their programs," Cabanatuan Mayor Perfecto Echiverri said in a statement e-mailed on Sunday.

The US Embassy said the carrier group's visit would contribute about $9.05 million to the local economy how purchases and area spending. With a report from Nitta Gallego and AP

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IMF chief arrested on sexual assault charges

From page A1

Sofitel hotel near Manhattan's Times Square.

Browne said the chambermaid had been told to clean the spacious $3,000-a-night suite, which she thought was empty. He said the intruder threatened to rape her if she screamed.

Strauss-Kahn had been occupying since Friday but is leaving, a spokesperson said.

The NYPD said the maid in Room 3028 was in the airport, the NYPD contacted port authority officials, who pitched the IMF chief from the France flight 223 just 10 minutes before its scheduled takeoff

Firm in her principles, love for downtrodden

From page A1

has left many of us in awe, me be a good 34 years.

She preferred to use the by line "Chit Estella" in her stories, but to her students she was "Ma'am Estella."

I first met Chit when I was applying for membership in the UP Journalism Club, of which she was the president. Of the rest of her death, she was the club's faculty adviser.

In September then, I was so taken aback by the severe-looking Chit and her equally severe questioning about the state of Philippine journalism—the sorority was under martial law then—that I considered myself unworthy to be near her, more so associate her circle.

But it was a different Chit I would get to know when we became best reporters, she for Manila Evening Post and I for Philippine Daily Express. There we covered almost the same beats: people and problems around her.

Her concerns for people, especially the downtrodden, was greater and, in more recent years, to the point of imbibing the negative effects that made her to call she had to see a doctor.

Chit held strong views on her political and moral beliefs. But, at the same time, she possessed this admirable capacity to take on other views that enabled her to engage in lively discussions of such issues like liberalism and religion, without losing friends.

No-frills reportage

As well, Chit's very sense of humor and ability to laugh at herself endeared her to many people.

On a few occasions, also in more recent years, she tried to make light of the hysterectomy she underwent before the get married, which I know was really difficult, given how fond she was of children. (In fact, Chit's love story with husband-to-be Andrew Estella was written up.)

It was after Edsa 1 that Chit and I got a chance to work for the same newspaper. It had taken more than a year to convince her to leave the English language tabloid Tempo and join Ninoy Aquino's Philippine Daily Express, of which I was one of the reporters. I had joined the paper earlier—when it was an alternative newspaper during the Marcos dictatorship—and I was by then one of its editors.

For seven years, Chit went to nightful stories—on the presidency of Corazon Aquino and later on Congress under Aquino's successor, Fidel Ramos. Her no-frills, substantial reportage on government affairs is more remark to me than Chit "writes like a man."

It was not gender-sensitive at all, but the compliment was genuine and sincere.

Girls' night out

Chit's willingness to help others made her one of the most loved at Malaya. She was an indefatigable union leader, arguing quietly but firmly for the rights of employees, especially during collective bargaining sessions.

Without prodding from the editors, Chit and senior reporter Ellen Tordesillas, also a Vera Files contributor and now its president, took it upon themselves to patiently mentor young reporters, keeping alive the "old" system that had long gone out of practice in many newsrooms.

Saturday nights we always looked forward to after all it was our "girls' night out," with Shalimar Tiples (now in Toronto) sometimes joining us. Chit and Ellen would sit at the news desk and help edit stories, as I could put the paper to bed early.

Good weather or bad, we would hit "all" the joints in different pockets of the metropolis where we would stay till midnight swapping stories, ranging from the state of the country's affairs to affairs of the heart of people in government and the private sector.

But even the calmest sail from Mr. Dissenter that fell over Metro Manila one Saturday night in June 1991 could engulf from pushing through with our weekly night out. My only "real" dinner ended when I cleared with a hearty laugh, "Ladies, let's get going. Ayaw ko ingang corrupt ang inom. (We know really won't stop)."

Chit's and my days in Malaya ended in 1994. I moved to a trade magazine and later to the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Chit had been working at the news desk of the Philippine Daily Inquirer for months when she was offered the position of managing editor of Manila Times owned then by the Gokongwei family.

To Chit and the new set of editors of Manila Times fell the daunting task of restoring the newspaper's glorious tradition of independence and courageous reporting.

Trouble started in 1999 when then President Joseph Estrada slapped the daily with a P201 million libel suit over a report on overtures made to a government contract that favored the Singaporean power firm Sepco.

The agreement among the Times editors was clear, especially in Chit, who had unshakeable kept the newspaper's independence, including a multi-million dollar libel suit. All of them were in resign should the publisher apologize to President Estrada. But when that happened, only she and several editors handed in their resignations.

The other top editors chose to stay, leading to a highly publicized acrimonious debate over journalistic and personal principles, not a bitter parting of ways between friends that pained Chit a lot.

Summer without Chit

Life after Manila Times for Chit was an editor in chief of The Sheet, Bread Pitter Times, a political tabloid founded by the multi-awarded Inquirer columnist Ricky Rosario. Disappointed, Chit and her friends, including Vera Files cofounder and Amihan Bonifac Cruz, continued to publish exposés about Estrada. The pieces she wrote in Filipino for Ninoy Times were so powerful to those she had penned in English.

The tabloid closed shortly after Estrada's ouster in 2001, and Chit settled into a quieter life. Teaching journalism part-time at UP and Ateneo, and writing books and later the FJE reports for the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

In 2005, she decided it was time to apply for a full-time teaching position at UP.

When I myself went full-time at UP three a year later, Chit offered right away to share her cubicle with me as we awaited the physical expansion of the department and I could get my own space.

On days when we could, we would grab lunch together or spend late afternoons walking around the Academic Oval.

Some days, Chit would hitch a ride from the university to the taxi stand on Elliptical Circle. We would drive past Ayala Technohub, little knowing that this was where she would meet her untimely death on Friday.

We met up: old friends like Ellen, Bonifac, Sam Rodrigo and Jennifer Santillan-Santiago. It was in one of those meetings three years ago that we decided to embark on a venture that would lead us to continue writing and editing, even without pay, and more even more frequently, for as long as we could. Vera Files.

As our passion as co-ary of Vera Files, Chit was in charge of calling the meetings. She had suggested one in early March, but most of us thought it best to meet by mother's end.

In a few weeks, summer will be over and classes will open. It is hard to picture life at UP and at Vera Files without Chit. But I also know Chit would not want her death to immobilize family and friends. She had lived the life she wanted, and is probably yelling at us now with a hearty laugh, "Ladies, let's get going."

Hanggang sa muli (ading pagkikita (Till we meet again), Chit.

PHOTOS and colleagues visit the ashes of Chit Estella at Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. MARIA TORRES

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MMDA plans speed radar guns on motorbikes

By Mike Frankie and Nancy Carvajal

DRIVEN BY the death of a prominent motorbike-riding athlete, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday said it was planning to equip its motorcycle units with radar speed guns to go after speeding motorists, particularly passenger-less drivers.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino also announced he would meet with the agency's task force overseeing the implementation of traffic rules along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City where the accident that killed journalist Chit Estrella occurred on Friday night.

"We will also introduce the use of speed radars on board our motorcycle units," Tolentino said in a radio interview. "These will identify violators and once they are pulled over, we can have the violators tickets printed and issued to drivers."

The driver of the Universal Bus Line unit that rammed the car/cab carrying Estella has been identified and criminal charges will be filed against him today in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, an official said.

Senior Insp. Arnold Santiago, Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Group head, identified the driver as Daniel Espinosa, 39, a native of Davao del Sur.

Santiago denied reports that Espinosa had been arrested. He said the police were also still looking for the driver of a second vehicle that hit Estrella's car.

The officer-in-can, SPO3 Nelson Aposol, said that witness Santa had been dispatched to locate the driver and the bus conductor of the bus, who also fled scene.

Aposol added they would study the video footages taken along Commonwealth Avenue at the time of the accident.

The cab's driver survived with minor injuries.

The MMDA has initially armed traffic enforcers with radar guns to gauge the speed of vehicles passing on Commonwealth Avenue. It has enforced a 60-kilometer-per-hour speed limit on the thoroughfare since last month to ease traffic congestion along its stretch.

The number of road mishaps on Commonwealth Avenue has ranked be it the list "killer highway."

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DID YOU KNOW

NOELLE Wilmendez, Carina Dependoon and Junel Belarmino became the first women from the Philippines and Southeast Asia to reach the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain. The three reached the peak of Everest four years ago today (May 16, almost a year after Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to scale Mount Everest successfully on May 11, 2008). **JUDAICI Bautista, Inquirer Research**

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Lim wins recount; Atienza contests tally

By Jayvee T. Garcil

THE FIGHT may be over as far as Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim is concerned but for his political opponent, former Mayor Lito Atienza, it is just beginning.

On Friday a manual recount of the votes cast in 200 precincts in the 2010 mayoral polls in the city ended with Lim garnering 65,195 votes compared to Atienza's 20,348. The other candidates, on the other hand, accounted for 12,427 votes.

"It was shown that the automated election results correlated with the results of the manual count done by the Commission on Elections (Comelec). Let this be a test case for all other similar protests. It is not true the automated count is different from the manual," Lim's chief of staff, Ricardo de Guzman, said in a statement.

The manual recount covering the results from 200 polling precincts was ordered by the Comelec to settle an electoral protest filed by Atienza who claimed that Lim had won by committing fraud in the nearly city-wide automated elections.

De Guzman said the results of the manual recount showed Lim winning by a landslide in the city's six districts. He added that they expected the Comelec to issue a ruling on the matter soon.

Roughly for comparison, Atienza said he was not about to give up just yet as he had asked Comelec to order a manual recount of the ballots from all of the city's 1,411 precincts.

"We have filed a petition for the reconsideration of the opening of the next 200 ballot boxes," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Atienza added that they had evidence to prove that there were irregularities in the ballots which were included in the recount.

"So far as we're concerned, LIM WAS...

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CAUSE OF TRAFFIC

Amador, 44, of Quezon City, writes: "Although the transport terminal in front of SM North Edsa has made it convenient for passengers to get rides, traffic is still heavy in the area because some public utility vehicles like jeepneys refuse to enter the terminal to pick up passengers. Instead, they stop by the roadside and wait for passengers. They raise up even lanes of the road, resulting in the buildup of traffic in the area."

Metro Citizen's call 4467

Truck, bus drivers ignore no entry sign

Going north coming from Fort Bonifacio on 32, there is a no entry sign for trucks and buses just before going down the ramp at the right side to Bagong Ilog, Pasig. Why isn't that some dump trucks and buses are allowed to use this service road despite the sign? The Pasig traffic aides would not really say that they have permits. So my question is, what was the basis for the issuance of these permits? I hope that the Pasig City government will seriously investigate this.

Jose, 48, Pasig City

Traffic enforcers no match for jeepney drivers

Pagod na kami sa mga traffic enforcers sa kanto. Hindi sila kayang ayusin ang mga drivers na nag-iiskang "layasan. Pero 10 minutes after the barrier, because of the humbleness of jeepney drivers who pay the Tayuman-Pritil route. Even if the light is already red, they still cross the intersection which is why traffic is heavy at the corner of Rizal Avenue and Tayuman extension.

Jr., 20, Manila

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Wanted man killed after trying to take hostage 3 women in QC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A MAN wanted for murder died to escape from policemen who were chasing him by barging in to a house and holding hostage a pregnant woman and two more people.

His plan, however, was foiled and in the end, Dennis Estrada was killed when he tried to shoot it out with his pursuers.

Chief Insp. Roberto Razon of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 6 said the hostage-taking took place on Saturday evening in Quezon City.

Cornered by lawmen

Estrada, who was wanted for killing Edgar Bernardo on May 13, was spotted the following day by policemen on Kamias Street in Barangay Commonwealth.

But instead of giving himself up, Estrada barged inside the house of Glenda Torres who was five months pregnant.

At that time, Torres was watching television with her six-year-old daughter and sister.

A commotion ensued but the victims were able to break free from Estrada.

They escaped from their house by getting out through one of the windows and then seeking shelter in their neighbor's house.

With his hostages gone, Estrada opened fire at the policemen who were chasing after him.

Kagawad Ruel Cruz with the murder suspect showing no signs of surrendering, his men had no choice.

"A policeman had a clear shot at the suspect and returned fire," he said.

Estrada died after he was hit in the head and chest.

The police recovered from him a loaded Colt .45 handgun and a 12-inch-long kitchen knife.

Case officer PO2 Hakim Paul, in court that on May 13, Estrada shot Bernardo in the neck as the latter was about to enter his house on Bulava Street in Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City.

According to Padua, Estrada was with three other men at the time of the killing. They were identified by their aliases as Jeffrey Sarmate and Tipsy.

One of the three men later arrested by a separate group of police operatives. Abdul Serapio was taken to the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Group office for questioning.

2 suspects still at large

The two other men, however, remain at large.

Meanwhile, Bernardo's brother positively identified Estrada as the man who killed his brother.

The police said that aside from the killing of Bernardo, Estrada and his cohorts were believed to be also responsible for the series of bank robberies in the Commonwealth area. *With Sara Susa, trainee*

Lim wins recount

From page A16

[the recount] isn't over. We are not counting anything because what we can were unopened ballots," he said.

The alleged irregularities, he added, included fictitious signatures, folded ballots and ballots whose contents had been tampered with. "The ballots the marks were already encoded [before the 2010 elections] and the ballots were tampered with to conform with those marks," Antonio claimed.

Sarmiento, Jr. Comelec had requested us to deposit money for the recount of 1,411 precincts. The expenses are already covered so why not continue with the recount to satisfy the doubts being raised?" he said.

Antonio expressed hope that the poll body would use the ballot as the precedent in order the continuation of the manual recount.

During the 2008 automated elections, Lim received 395,830 votes compared to 381,094 for Antonio.

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DOG DAY AFTERNOON

Pinoy Lacjapo a blue ribbon with a little help from his master at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Militant group seeks justice for activist killed in Navotas

By Lala B. Salaverria

THE MILITANT group Kampanyan has sought justice for an activist who was allegedly killed by policemen in Navotas City.

In a statement, Kampanyan said that the death of 27-year-old Jovanie de Asencio, a member of Anakbayan who was also a fish vendor, should be investigated by an independent team. At the same time, it reminded the administration that it is required to uphold human rights in the country.

Kampanyan's call for a probe of De Asencio's death came a day after Amnesty International said that nearly a year into the Aquino administration, there has been minimal progress when it comes to giving justice to victims of human rights violations.

On a report, Kampanyan said that De Asencio had just finished selling fish at the wet [illegible] when three policemen forced him into their patrol vehicle where they beat him up.

One of the policemen was identified as PO1 Ronnie dela Cruz. The two were known only as Police Officers 1 Caranche and Gonzales.

The group reported that the policemen later brought De Asencio to a police station where he was booked for vagrancy. After he was taken to a clinic for a medical checkup, De Asencio was brought to a safe house where he was again beaten up, according to witnesses.

Kampanyan claimed that De Asencio told De Antonio to run and then gunshots were heard after which they were transporting him inside a tricycle. The victim was later brought to "Dalisay Funeral Homes" where he was declared dead on arrival.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Sunico

Money-hungry US hits borrowing cap

WASHINGTON—The debt-laden US government's credit card will hit its limit on Monday, creating a cash crunch that puts the country's credit standing at risk as politicians battle over its long-term deficit.

Reaching the $14.29 trillion ceiling set by Congress will not have an immediate impact on government finances, because the Treasury has found about 10 weeks of wiggle room to divert term adjustments and unexpected April jump in tax revenues.

But with Republicans refusing to increase the ceiling without massive future spending cuts, the longer the fight over bridging the country's deficit goes on, the higher the stakes will get.

If nothing is done by about Aug. 2, there is a chance the United States, which has always married a top-grade credit rating, could do the unthinkable—default on its debt payments.

Few think it will get that far, as the White House leads behind-the-scenes talks on a grand strategy on the deficit—with Republicans insisting on spending cuts and Democrats demanding tax increases as well.

Still, some fliers the fight is a game of chicken being played with the country's credit standing as stake.

"Using the debt limit as a bargaining chip is quite risky," Ben Bernanke, the chair of the US Federal Reserve, warned policymakers on Thursday.

"At minimum the cost will be an increase in interest rates that will actually worsen our deficit," he said.

"The worst outcome would be one in which the financial system was again destabilized... which of course would have extremely dire consequences for the US economy," Bernanke spoke—who are shown to those who hold the debt—called a default unthinkable.

"The severity of the outcome is why people are not believing that it will happen," said Aaron Kohli, a US Treasuries specialist at Scotia Capital.

"It's the financial equivalent of a nuke going off."

"As far as US bond yields are concerned, they are much lower than they were a month ago. So, the market is acting as if there's no problem," said Jason Adamson of Sterling.com.

Even so, the numbers are worrying. As of Thursday the government had another $30 billion in hearses before making the ceiling, and the settlement of bonds auctioned during the week would take it there on Monday. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Syria troops assault border town, send hundreds fleeing

HUNDREDS of Syrians fled into Lebanon on Saturday after Syrian Army troops assaulted a border town, killing at least three people and arresting hundreds in the latest phase of cross-border crackdown on the two-month uprising against the rule of President Bashar Assad. Backed by dozens of tanks, Syrian troops entered the town of Tall Kalakh before dawn, following the pattern of raids on other cities like Deraa, Banyas and Homs. The assault came a day after another Friday of protests and an announcement by the Syrian government that a national dialogue would be launched soon. Even though the death toll in the protests on Friday paled compared with past weeks, the assault seemed to show that the government would persist with a crackdown that has led to the deaths of hundreds and the detention of thousands in one of the most brutal campaigns of suppression since the Syrian uprising began. The uprising has represented the most serious challenge in the four decades of rule by the Assad family, though Syrian officials have maintained that they have the upper hand. **New York Times News Service**

Libya revolt in 4th month; Nato urged to do more

TRIPOLI—The head of Britain's Armed Forces urged Nato to redouble its bombing campaign as a revolt against Libya's regime entered its fourth month and the 8th special envoy was expected in Tripoli on Sunday. "The noose is closing on (Moammar) Gadhafi, but we need to increase the pressure further through more intense military action," General David Richards, chief of the defense staff, told the Sunday Telegraph. The general said he wanted Nato warplanes ... to support the targeting of Gadhafi's regime, not just targets which pose an immediate threat to civilians, such as tanks and artillery. "The military campaign to date has been a significant success for Nato and our allies. But we need to do more," Richards said. "At present, Nato is not attacking (missile) nature targets in Libya. But if we want to increase the pressure on Gadhafi's regime then we need to give serious consideration to increasing the range of targets we can hit." AFP

For second time in 3 days, Afghan child killed by Nato

KABUL, Afghanistan—For the second time in three days, a night raid on an Afghan house by Nato forces resulted in the death of a child, setting off protests on Saturday that forced Nato and ended in the death of a second boy. A Nato spokesperson apologized for the child's death, which took place early on Saturday in eastern Nangahar province in the Achzai district, a remote poppy-growing area close to Kabul province and Logar province. There has been almost no Nato presence there throughout the war, and this area is thought to be heavily penetrated by the Taliban. The district governor, Abdul Khalil, said he had heard a Taliban attack on the government center and had called for help from local Afghan security forces. At the same time, there was a raid, he said. "American forces did an operation and mistakenly killed a fourth grade student, he had gone to sleep in his field and had a shotgun next to him," he said. "People keep shotguns with them for farming, not for any other purposes," Khalil said. **New York Times News Service**

3,000 female fetuses aborted in Taiwan in 2010

TAIPEI—At least 3,000 female babies were presumed "missing" from Taiwan's population last year due to illegal sex-selective abortion, an official was cited by media as estimating on Sunday. Abortion practices caused the gap, Chiu Shu-fi, director-general of the Bureau of Health Promotion, was cited by the United Daily News as estimating. The Bureau last month launched an investigation after it found that 10 out of every 11 babies delivered in a clinic in Wan Taipei City had just were boys. Nine out of every 10 babies delivered in a Taipei City hospital during the same period of time were also male. Government officials suspected that doctors at the two medical institutions might have conducted the illegal abortions after suspicion parents had viewed ultrasound scans which showed them to predict the sex of their baby. AFP

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Buncio dies after Clark crash /A30

SPORTS

■ See whips Fu for World 10-Ball title /A32

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Henson pips Bayron for crown

American seizes Philippine Open by 1 shot over rallying Filipino

BEST Henson shows his ICTSI Philippine Open trophy after a gritty final-round stand at Wack Wack's East course. RAMON ESTELLA

By Nuvang E. Camillo

BOOT HENSON leaned on a slew of church shots to end an eight-year wait for a major golf boot victory yesterday.

The 32-year-old American gutted out a closing one-over par 73 to nudge back Filipino Jay Bayron and win the $300,000 (P12.8 Philippine Open by one shot at Wack Wack's unforgiving East course.

Henson, who is now winner of the Qatar Masters on the Asian Development Tour in Malaysia last May 1, climbed a breakthrough victory on the Asian Tour with a 283 total. He won $47,500.

Bayron fought hard all day and salvaged an eagle-spiked 72-for 289, one shot ahead of the perfect card last long-hitting South African Zoe Briquet who also gave a gallant chase only to lose some steam in the back nine for a 75.

After Henson, the overnight leader, opened his final round with a bogey, the self-spoken Bayron—who started the day two shots off—grabbed the lead on his 2-wahen he holed a wedge from under 100 yards for an eagle 2.

But the American reclaimed the upperhand when Bayron bogeyed the fourth, then dunked a downhill putt that had looked ready to roll off the green and possibly into the lagoon for birdie on No. 7.

"That was an unbelievable putt on No. 7," said Henson, who removed his face with his golf cap while acknowledging the cheers from the gallery.

"When I made that putt, I thought that that could be my work," added the eight-year pro from California, who, until yesterday, has won only $7,000 this year.

India's Digvijay Singh carded a 71 for 286 and fourth spot, two ahead of Thailand's Kiradech Tantala, who closed out with a 73, and Filipino Elmo Peway who struggled to a 74 like Fujito Atsuyoshihui also of Thailand.

$32,500 for Bayron

Before Bayron, Jay's younger brother, banked a top-10 finish, a tie for eighth spot with four others, after shooting a second straight 72-for 289.

Jay banked-in $32,500, while Rafito won $6,150.46.

The last of domestic pros' character note came on the 18th, where he also pushed his second shot into the rough.

Bayron also missed the green short, but was in perfect shape for an easy up-and-down, which he pulled off by lobbing a sand wedge to within gimme distance.

But Henson, who then putted the 17th for bogey, was expected he took on he leaped his third shot to within four feet and then nailed the par putt.

"I've been working very hard on my short game," Henson said. "So lucky that it was my second shot up and down so far. I hit it perfect four of the rough's and I was a little nervous losing that putt."

Bayron kept plodding along despite trailing

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Buncio dies after Clark crash

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MARCO GRISS Buncio, the driving force behind the country's maiden foray into the Asian Superbikes circuit, died yesterday after sustaining serious injuries in a competition crash in Clark Field, Pampanga, Saturday afternoon.

He was 22.

The man dubbed as the Philippines' fastest on two wheels, apparent of control at a bumpy turn during an Underbone Sling qualifying race at Clark International Speedway.

Witnesses said Buncio, riding a 115cc bike and hurtling at 220 kph, hit a round bar and ejected 100 meters on the track.

The four-time national Super bikes champion was rushed to a hospital in Dinalupihan, Pampanga, by the race's emergency medical personnel before being transferred to the University of Asia Santos Hospital in Manila.

He expired due to massive internal bleeding at 11:17 p.m. yesterday, according to UST doctors.

Local motorsports officials mourned Buncio's loss.

"His demise is a big loss to motorsports racing and to Philippine motorsports in general," said businessman Johnny Tan, the country's chief motorsports organizer.

"He brought back excitement to and interest in Superbike racing... The motorsports community stands beside Marco's family in their time of grief."

Buncio's Facebook wall page was swamped with concerned messages and appeals for blood donation all day yesterday.

The crash was the only topic discussed in threads on the Motorcycle Philippines website since Saturday afternoon.

"It was a tragic loss to Philippine motorcycling racing," said Hilbert Jardian of Suzuki Philippines, which formed the Team Suzuki Pilipinas that competed in the first leg of the Asia Road Racing Championship in Sepang, Malaysia, just two weeks ago.

"He's very ahead of his time. He dreamed big, and we know he's capable of achieving them."

A 2008 Philippine Sportswriters Association awardee for motorsports and Driver of the Year honoree of the Golden Wheel Awards, Buncio raced a bike like no Sepang, but took a spill in both races and failed to finish.

A graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, Buncio competed in Sepang with John Lery Enriquez.

A motorsport official said no one expected that path to from accident to fatal.

So race track in the world, no matter how well laid out and complete with safety features, can guarantee the prevention of accidents, the official added.

RACE LOSS: Four-time Superbikes champ Marco Buncio

BUNCIO received his 2011 PSA award last March.

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Adamson, Marikina split softball top honors

ADAMSON University and Marikina emerged champions in the 2011 Cebuana Lhuillier-Chooks To Go Summer Grandslam Softball Invitational tournament today yesterday at the Marikina Sports Complex in La Trinidad, Benguet.

The reigning UAAP champion Lady Falcons downed the Manila softballers, 11-9, to clinch the women's crown while Marikina turned back Philippine Air Force, 2-1, to capture the men's title.

In the women's semifinals, Adamson topped University of the Philippines, 1-0, while Manila dethroned University of Santo Tomas, 6-4.

Due to heavy rains Saturday, organizers declared UP and UST co-third placers. Zamboanga and Cavite also ended up joint third.

Adamson pitcher Veronica Bellosa was later voted Most Valuable Player of the tournament hosted by Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan and sponsored by Reyc Pañada, Jun Jesorio, Le Soleil de Sonoma, Cebuana Lhuillier Insurance Inclusive, and Pharex. – Rene Glen, Contributor

Henson pips Bayron for ...

From page A19

by Glenn at the turn to wind up with his best finish on the Asian Tour since turning pro over 3 years ago.

A bumper outfit from Genesis Ago Golf, the 49-year-old Bayron actually parlayed seven after birdies on 13 and 15, only to drop consecutive bogeys on Nos. 14 and 16 to fall behind by two again.

Bayron then made brilliant saves from the bunkers on Nos. 16 and 17 and crept within what seemed out as he the final birdie when Henson disregarded the penultimate hole three about 60 feet.

[illegible]

Guiguinto fires 72, pulls away by 5

LOVELYN GUIGUINTO backed some putting to match par 72 and pull away by five shots over a charging Orlando Bello after the second round of the Sentinel Amateur Open at the Sentinel Golf Club there in Malabon Saturday.

Guiguinto fit much of the Bellejos and gained down three birdies inside nine had to make up no three-putts on Nos. 6, 10 and 18. She totaled 148.

Bello meanwhile fashion a three-under finish plus to avenge the latter's challenge at 151 after a 72, as Jayvin Agpar, last one behind Guiguinto after 18 holes, raked in 77 and fell to third at 152.

"I will say with more heart tomorrow, today," said Guiguinto, out to get back at Bello, who narrowly beat her in the Thailand Open title recently.

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PBA ALL STARS

Gabe, Kelly dunk favorites

By Jose Navarro

DUNKER CHAMPIONS Gabe Norwood of Rain Or Shine and Kelly Williams of Talk 'N Text have been installed as favorites in the 2011 PBA All-Star slam dunk contest set Friday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Barangay Ginebra's JC Intal and Ronald Tubid and San Miguel Beer's Jay Washington are also highly rated in what has become a wide-open contest in the absence of defending champion Mike El Cansdera of Derby Ace.

The slam dunk competition, along with the three-point shootout and obstacle course, serves as aperitif to the PBA All-Star Game featuring rookies and sophomores.

The PBA stars will be capped by the Manila South All-Star selection back on Sunday.

Rookies Rey Guevarra of San Miguel Beer and Dhon Espiritu of Alaska, who hoist collegiate stars dunk titles, are also competing in the event organized by Unit Events Asia and backed by Shoemix, Coca-Cola, Talk 'N Text, Powta, Maynilad and 7Eleven Boracay.

Norwood raised the event on his rookie season in 2009, stunning a field that also included Cansdera, the pre-event favorite.

Pillianovic, who won in 2008, failed to defend his title then due to a blood disorder that sidelined him for the rest of the season.

Newcomers Mark Macapagal will defend his crown in the three-point shootout and Jonas Villanueva of San Miguel Beer goes for another obstacle course accolade in the festivities also supported by Smart, Accel, Modess, Maxidry Rain or Shine and Powerade.

It's more than a cage show

By Cedelf F. Tupas

THE 2011 PBA All-Star Weekend will be more than just a hoops showcase in Boracay.

A number of activities have been calendared in the five-day festivities dubbed "Hala Bola!" including an outreach program, a fashion show, fun games on the beach and basketball clinics, as the league brings the action down to the fans.

The main event of the five-day event dubbed "Hala Bola!"—the Ninth versus South All-Star game—is scheduled Sunday at the Boracay Eco-Village Resort and Convention Center.

The league will tend to outreach programs "Aksyong PBA!" on Caticlan Island on Thursday, where players will initiate marine eco-planting, coastal cleanup, basketball court painting and visit a hospital.

Boracay Mayor John Yap will join the PBA delegation on its way to Caticlan Island, where Mayor Fe Hontiveros will welcome the entourage.

The fashion show, featuring PBA players and 12 candidates of the Mutya ng Pilipinas, will highlight the festivities Thursday night, after the beach games on Station 2.

The Talpuputs versus Elite "Wags of War," a takeoff from the tug-of-war where teams will be composed of PBA players, Mutya candidates and reporters, the Hale or Shine Relay and 5-on-5 volleyball will be among the fun beach games set on Thursday.

The All-Star Weekend, with Unit Events Asia as official event host partners, is also sponsored by Boracay Eco-Village RCC, Fiona Time, Sanrio Super Glue, Fiesta or Shine, Mendaro, Coca-Cola, Talk 'N Text, Sheridan Beauty, Smart, Cinderella, National Paint, and official hotel partners Alta Vista Hotel de Boracay and DMCI Homes.

See whips Fu, tops World 10-Ball

PHOTO Sarrales his shot in the fourth rack.

By Cecil P. Tupas

MANILA, The Netherlands joined the WPA World 10-Ball Championship Tuesday with little expectation.

By the end of the tournament five days later, he walked away with the championship trophy and the biggest purse of his career.

Flashing nerves of steel, the 29-year-old unheralded Dutchman of Chinese origins overcame Fu Jianbo of China, 11-8, yesterday in a flash-crash-closed of the canal homeowners cheering at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Fu earlier halted Filipino Carlo Biado's remarkable run with a 9-5 victory to set up the finals duel with See, who eliminated Fabio Abdurrahman of Japan, 9-6, in the other semifinal duel.

See, who won $60,000 (about P2.7 million) duplicated the feat of fellow Dutchmen Ouanes Applecon of England, who ended the inaugural edition in 2006, and Mika Immonen of Finland, who topped the event two years ago.

"I'm a like a dream (winning) a world championship," said the soft-spoken See, the winner of the US Open 10-Ball title last year.

"I knew that I could play well but to really execute it is just great. Hopefully this will start my career around," added See, who grew up in Indiana.

See quickly dashed out of the losers' bracket, eliminating fourteen Ball Injury, 9-4, to reach the knockout phase.

"Beating Ball gave me the confidence that I could beat everyone else," said See.

After bundling out top Filipino bet Biado, the No. 1 amateur Lining, world championship No. 17 and the self-spoken See, the winner of the US Open 10-Ball title last year.

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"Beating Ball gave me the confidence that I could beat everyone else," said See.

After bundling out top Filipino bet Biado, the No. 1 amateur Lining, world champion Dennis Orcollo and Roman Raccio in the earlier rounds, Biado looked poised to go all the way.

But inherently pressured by the enormity of the occasion, Do Lo Mario also made two early errors in the semifinals, allowing Fu to come in an 8-3 lead.

"I felt the pressure since I was the only Filipino left," said Biado, who eliminated Orcollo, 9-6, Saturday night. "I really wanted to win for the country."

Fu advanced against Biado by outing Lee Van Corsiza, 9-8.

Biado hardly slept on the eve of the semifinal and needed time to settle.

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SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo clips Adamson in series opener

By Jasmine W. Paya

ATENEO now faces a disastrous first set to nine Adamson, 25-15, 15-14, 25-20, 25-20, yesterday and move within a win of claiming the 8th Shakey's V-League first conference championship.

The Lady Eagles recovered from an early meltdown with Jeanne Ichanet, Ella Catagbit and Myrna Miller preserving Ateneo through to Game 1 of the best of three title series at the packed FEDA Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Reshave, the Thai import named as the conference MVP, had seven blocks in a match-high 24 points. Catagbit fired 22 points, including 20 spikes, and Valdez toned in 19.

"With what happened, I believe that we can [win the crown]," said Ateneo rookie coach Chum Soriano of the underdog Lady Eagles, who lose the first set despite meeting with its two previous matchups.

Ateneo will draw for its first serve and spoil Adamson's repeat title bid at 6 p.m. tomorrow also in San Juan.

Earlier, University of St. La Salle downed National University 16-25, 25-15, 25-22, 25-22, 6-4 game 1 of the best-of-three battle for third place.

Reshave, also the MVP in the 2007 second conference, is only the third player to win the league's top individual award twice after Mary Jean Balse and Suzanne Roces.

Two other Ateneo players bagged individual honors with Catagbit picking up the Most Improved Player award and Sweden Lazaro as Best Receiver.

Adamson had two winners in Nene Bautista as Best Attacker and May Hanamura as Best Setter. Rounding out the awardees were St. La Salle's Patty Orendain (Best Server) and April Hingpit (Best Setter). Second Cecilia Santiago (Best Blocker) and Jovelyn Gonzaga (Best Digger).

HVP Ateneo's Thai import Reshave Lilkaroi.

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NBA East Finals: Heat, Bulls begin war

MIAMI—LeBron James will take some turns guarding Derrick Rose in the Eastern Conference finals. So will Dwyane Wade. Mike Miller, Mario Chalmers and even Chris Bosh in some moments, too.

None of those expects to stop him.

Keeping Rose in check, however, is the top priority for the Miami Heat—and it likely a prerequisite for beating the Chicago Bulls and reaching the NBA finals.

Game 1 of the East title series is Sunday night in Chicago, the city Rose has led into its first NBA Final Four since Michael Jordan took them there over 15 years ago.

Meanwhile, Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat Zach Randolph and the Memphis Grizzlies into Sunday in Game 7 of the Western Conference semifinals.

The Grizzlies, bidding to become the first No. 8 seed to reach the Semi finals, and the Thunder will clash for the right to face the Minnesota starting Tuesday night in Dallas.

The Bulls are the NBA's overall No. 1 seed and have the league's best home mark, 41-6, including playoffs, as well.

But where Chicago topped Atlanta on Thursday night to clinch their East semifinal series in six games, Rose quickly said he didn't mind that the Bulls would be the underdogs in the East finals against Miami.

"We're not a team to consider anything," James said, discussing how to defend the guard who ended his second straight as the NBA MVP this season.

Rose has taken 20 percent of Chicago's shots in the playoffs, his 256 attempts almost as many as the next shots for the Bulls' second and third options, Luol Deng (164) and Carlos Boozer (119) in the postseason. AP

Pasay five stakes clean Coke slate

MASAY CITY makes its undefeated record when it goes up against defending champion Mandaluyong today in the crucial stage of the 2nd Coca-Cola Pasaple National Capital Region Championship at the Mandaluyong Sports Complex.

Gametime is 4 p.m., with Pasay searched by Chido Martin, eyeing to make it 3-0 and Mandaluyong seeking to improve its 2-1 slate in the South Zone as the four-city phase moves to the second round.

Also in the South, Parañaque has Glen Degrip in Taguig at 6:30 p.m., with Muntinlupa looking to snap out of a 0-2 start.

And in Central action at the Makati Coliseum, Manila (8-2) faces Makati (1-2) at 6 p.m.

Last two days of 'Bulldog' derby

THE CHAMPIONS of the World Bulldog Bulldog National 7 Bulldog Derby will be known after the last two rounds are staged tomorrow and Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

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QANTAS

A disservice to Pacquiao

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathaniel C.

MAYBE ALL of us should respect the views of present Davao governing Mayor Sarmiento on the Reproductive Health Bill on matters how much we may be for it, we feel that Quiapo Church parish priest Rev. Msgr. Clemente Ignacio and some of a dissenters to Pacquiao and his congregation.

Monsignor Ignacio warned the thanksgiving Mass before parishioners that demand up to dance to the blessings of a disruption—into a protest rally against the RH bill.

While the monsignor is doing his sense, Pacquiao had an duties but to respond by saying that the RH bill mirror "disobedience to God's laws."

Frankly speaking, there are many of God's laws but all of us, including Manny, disobey at one time or another and it therefore seems odd to preach about disobedience to dear enemy.

Our position is that Pacquiao has the right to speak out and be heard loud against the RH bill, but the thanksgiving Mass was not the proper venue for it.

The livestock reported that in his homily, Monsignor Ignacio criticized the RH bill and urged Pacquiao not to support it and to walk out his stand opposing it to Congress.

It seems that some members of the Church had to show the exemption decked to this one and resistant to use the pulpit as many occasions to push their stand, in the process triggering walkouts from Mass and disturbing attendance.

The use of colors to signify support or opposition to the pending legislation is more than the manpower to degenerating into a political battle between the Church and the State.

We recall how Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma, vice president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, decided advocates of the RH bill on being so heavy than sensation.

Perhaps the good monsignor Ignacio should have appealed to Manny to help the poor like never before considering the money he is raking in. We know for a fact, though, that Pacquiao does more than his due share for the less fortunate.

The monsignor could have drawn attention to the conspicuous display of wealth in the midst of poverty and the sapping of the meager income of the poor by gamblers.

Maybe he should have asked Pacquiao with trying to influence his colleagues to spend their millions in pork barrel allocations wisely and honestly and to shun corruption that has been the bane of our nation.

While known, there may not have now be a need for an RH bill because our economy would be much stronger than it is right now and capable of sustaining a rapidly growing population.

In the end it may well come down to priorities.

With all due respect to monsignor Ignacio, we believe he got his priorities all wrong.

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BUSINESS

Acer Veriton M272

GSIS eyes ₱10B for members' housing needs

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 13, 2011
43.125

STOCK MARKET
May 13, 2011
19.9

Cautious trading seen

LOCAL STOCKS may trade with more caution this week as the weak global markets may hamper risk-taking among investors.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 1.1 percent last week to 4,292.11, but sentiment had turned more cautious toward the end of the week.

The volatility in the global equity markets capped the rally and led to gains as investors feared that further volatility in the global markets might worsen, according to Alexis de Dios Bolivar, chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

"Charlene, the market's ability to break above the 4,300 levels suggests a retest of the 4,150-4,170 levels. If the gain-hunting activities emerge at these levels, a short-term bounce to the 4,250 levels may be in the cards," he said.

But if the market fails to contain itself within the 4,153-4,170, Ravelas said there could be further losses toward the 3,970-4,000 levels.

"While first-quarter earnings have not yet fully been released, we can see so far that a few companies' earnings will not

CAUTIOUS B3

Money may be coursed through Pag-IBIG Fund

By Rocrel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is looking at providing between P5 billion and P10 billion for members' housing loan needs, but the funds will be coursed through the Pag-IBIG Fund.

Robert G. Vergara, GSIS president and general manager, said that talks with Pag-IBIG were still ongoing and nothing had been set.

"We are looking into this, but maybe we can have initial provisions within the next three to six months," Vergara said.

The GSIS announced its new shelter financing program effective April 28 in favor of working with key shelter agencies like Pag-IBIG.

Vergara said the GSIS has been extending housing loans to its members since 1954, but due to the 50 years since then, the agency has "not been getting good results."

"We are not a housing institu-

GSIS B3

Private economists see higher inflation for 2011

By Michelle V. Baron

ECONOMISTS from the private sector have raised their inflation forecast for the year, but maintained that the increase in prices of goods and services would likely remain below the government's target.

This was according to results of the survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on the latest inflation outlook of pri-

Most B3 &

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Aboitiz power unit ramps up capacity** /B15

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Lopez group to boost power capacity

First Gen, other subsidiaries line up expansion projects

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOPEZ-led First Gen Corp., along with its subsidiaries and affiliates, will embark on an aggressive expansion of existing generating facilities to increase total capacity by about 600 megawatts over the next four years.

Francis Giles Puno, president and CEO of First Gen, disclosed that the company would pursue various expansion projects within the existing geothermal concessions areas of Energy Development Corp., namely, the 20-MW Nasuji, 12-MW Mindanao 2, 40-MW Bacon-Manito2 and 40-MW Kayabon power projects.

Another subsidiary First Gen Hydrorenewables Inc., applied for renewable energy service contracts with the Department of Energy for 14 wind sites and has been given priority over six sites. These are located in Luzon and Northern Mindanao.

According to Puno, First Gen is looking at a wind power portfolio of about 200 MW to be put up over the next four years. While Puno did not give investment figures, company officials expect to spend $2.5 million to produce a megawatt of wind power. This means that for a 200-MW portfolio, the company has to spend as much as $500 million or about P22.5 billion for wind power projects.

"It is our hope that we will finally get the Energy Regulatory Commission approved feed-in tariff for wind projects in order to start constructing [the] 40-MW Kayabon project here in Davao," Puno said, noting that this would be the first among the planned wind projects that would be put up.

Apart from its geothermal expansion and wind power projects, First Gen is also looking at run-of-river hydropower projects currently considered on top of its 80 MW. These prospects are being studied by the company to help meet the electricity needs of Mindanao in the near term.

For the hydropower projects, the company expects to invest $2 million to produce a megawatt, according to First Gen chair Federico Lopez. This means that an 80-MW hydropower portfolio will require an outlay of $160 million or around P7.2 billion.

Lopez said the company was planning to implement the projects in phases, with the first 10 MW to be put up within two to three years.

Should all the projects push through, the company will be able to increase its total installed capacity from the current 2,807 MW. Of this, 1,100 MW (33 percent) come from geothermal, 700 from plants; 1,199 MW (42 percent) from geothermal, and 1216 MW (1 percent) from hydroconcessions.

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GSIS eyes P10B

From page B1

tion and we believe we can do better by partnering with housing agencies like Pag-IBIG," he said.

Last week, Vergara said that existing housing loans and applications released before April 28 would continue to be processed and serviced.

He said the suspension of GSIS housing loan programs would enable the pension fund to focus on other types of loans that will offer to its members and pensioners.

GSIS documents showed that some 81 percent of its loan portfolio were in short- to medium-term loans such as the consolidated loan, emergency loan, one-time cash advance, policy loan and the pension loan.

Vergara assured its more than 1.3 million members and pensioners that the system was in a healthy financial position and "withdrawal from these loans [ending will] not adversely affect the standing."

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BUSINESS

MVP in the NBA

INFLUENTIAL businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan left for the United States on Friday amid increasing expectations that the big boss of PLDT, Meralco, Metro Pacific Investments, Maynilad Water, TV5 and Philex—which is also a sports enthusiast—may acquire a basketball franchise to be NBA.

Reportedly the first Filipino and first Asian to acquire an American professional basketball team, will MVP add Sacramento Kings to the list of crown jewels under his ownership?

A spokesperson confirmed on Saturday that MVP had indeed flown to the US for and he did not know about whether this was related to the Sacramento Kings rumor. It was cited in sports columnist Lee Jenkins' May 13 report that there were in Manila to offer the franchise to MVP.

MVP could have only waited for the closing of the first-quarter corporate books to consider it as this foray into international basketball is not expected to come in cheaply.

He has told the Sacramento Kings after the businesses under MVP ownership? Equity analyst Anne Mari Lamoin of Campos Lanuza & Co. said that, assuming this was a serious consideration, there were no running synergies with local businesses. But as a personal investment, he said it could be profitable for MVP.

"He has been investing in domestic sports franchises anyway. As long as ticket sales and merchandise sales are improving, it could be profitable," Lamoin said. (Iris C. Dumolac)

GCASH REMIT tapped to pay out cash grants to CCT beneficiaries

Caption: Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) is the anti-poor project in the Philippines. The CCT, or the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), is the centerpiece program of the Aquino government. Under the CCT, poor families are given cash grants in exchange for their children's regular attendance in school and their regular visits to health centers. Critics say the CCT is a dole-out program that does not address the roots of poverty. Worse, it is fraught with corruption. Reports have surfaced that some of the cash grants are pocketed by unscrupulous officials. Now, the Aquino government is tapping GCash to remit the cash grants to CCT beneficiaries. Under the deal, GCash will remit the cash grants to CCT beneficiaries in 1,000 municipalities and cities nationwide. Around 2.3 million CCT beneficiaries will receive their cash grants through GCash. Here, a GCash agent (left) hands over the cash grant to a CCT beneficiary in Pasay City. Around 2.3 million CCT beneficiaries will receive their cash grants through GCash. Here, a GCash agent (left) hands over the cash grant to a CCT beneficiary in Pasay City.

BIZ BUZZ
By the shelf

'Appreciating' bonus

MVP SAID bonus a good trend of late, after his Philippine Basketball Association rivals, Talk N' Text Tropang Texters, claimed their second straight championship in the league's Commissioner's Cup against Barangay Ginebra Kings, owned by rival San Miguel Corp. head honcho Ramon Ang.

And what exactly will the cagers get for their efforts? Last year, each team member was given an almost-new Toyota Vios.

This time, instead of cars that depreciate, MVP said he was considering giving each player something that could appreciate—shares of stock in PLDT, Meralco or Philex.

Incidentally...

MVP was also in high spirits prior to his departure to the United States. PLDT, after all, topped Financiahub's survey of "best managed" companies in the Philippines, likewise ranking number one in corporate governance, investor relations and dividend policy.

The only category where it did not emerge as the topnotcher was that on corporate social responsibility, which was won by Ayala Corp.

Meanwhile, rivalry doesn't frustrate Abella was cited as the "Best CEO" in the same Financiahub survey and Ron Abella, also of Absolut Power, the "Best CFO." The "Best Mid-Cap" company was Manila Mines. (Iris C. Dumolac)

SMIC hopping mad

OFFICIALS of San Miguel Corp. were hopping mad last week after Standard & Poor's cut its outlook on the company to "negative" from "stable," due ostensibly to the company's rising debt situation.

As it turned out, SMC had asked S&P to discontinue rating the firm as early as Dec. 3, 2010—almost six months ago.

In a strongly worded letter to the debt watcher, SMC's Ben Ichiro pointed out that the last discussion between both parties happened as far back as October 2010, with S&P not issuing access to SMC's books since then.

More importantly, S&P only wrote SMC at 9:13 a.m. of May 13, asking for the latter's comments (and not giving it sufficient time to react) before publishing its rating that same afternoon.

To this, SMC asked: What business did S&P have rating it when they haven't had access to the company's books or discussions with its officials for at least eight months now?

Whatever S&P's reactor was, it supposedly cost a deal on SMC's finances as it came when the company had just sold shares to investors.

Suspicious timing, SMC's Ichiro thought.

By the way, that stockbroker suspected of "front running" by heavily selling San Miguel's shares before the company announced the pricing of its shares? Word on the street is that it is being investigated by authorities. (Sandy C. Lazon)

Villar's Vista

SEN. MANNY Villar may have been ensnared at the polls during last year's presidential elections, but when it comes to the local housing scene, it's his company that's doing the investing.

Recently, no less than four stockbrokers—the local unit of Deutsche Bank, CLSA, Citisecurities and Asiasec Equities Inc.—put their recommendations on Vista Land and Lifescapes owing to its strengths as a low-cost housing building amid a "healthy" property market.

The most bullish of them, CLSA, predicted that Vista Land's share price will hit P4.61 over the next 12 months—from the present P3.13—citing the firm's "strong earnings growth" prospects.

Why so? According to people close to Sen. Villar, he has been upping with his electronic fare by subsidizing his forays on his boat into ventures.

Indeed, on more than one occasion, he has been heard to say to friends, "Kung ayaw ng mga Pilipino na pagsasakyan ko sila, pagsasakyan ko na lang ang mga investors ko." (Sandy C. Lazon)

Gulf fugitive, part 2

TIM ALLEN Sessumbes, the former general manager of Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club, was escorted out of the country by US Marshals last month to finally face charges in the United States of allegedly defrauding people of $350,000, and consequently hiding in the Philippines as a fugitive for the past six years (and, during that time, working for the 63-hectare property as golf director of Forest Hills, general manager of Johnson Hay Golf Club and general manager of Manila Southwoods).

Many members of Southwoods—a club which, at one time, was considered the best in Asia—were shocked at how people they found of directors of the club served themselves before he was given the task of running the club. Prior board members aware of his theft only before giving him the plum job?

Tycoon Andrew Tan, new head honcho of the 91 Estate group, now needs to ensure that sufficient and transparent due diligence is done on shareholder/public successors by the Southwoods board and to empower governance of the club, lest the stink rub off on the process as well. (Sandy C. Lazon)

Off to the Visayas

SEEKING TO kamuna wealth outside Metro Manila, the Philippine Stock Exchange is setting up shop in Cebu to become the "trading ground" for its capital market activities in the Visayas.

The new PSE office, which will be inaugurated on July 18, will be located on the second floor of the Stock Exchange Building at Cebu Business Center. It will have an investors' lounge, a small version of electronic board and panels trading floor with computers loaded with broker utility applications.

Trading participants are being encouraged to deploy agents and dealers in the expense of maintaining the 79-square-meter base in Cebu, the second biggest city in the country. (Iris C. Dumolac)

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Economy seen to have grown 5.1% in Q1

BPI expects inflation to rise to 4.9% this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOMESTIC economic growth likely moderated to 5.1 percent in the first quarter albeit still posting above-trend expansion despite the shock waves from the oil-rich Middle East South, ethics and supply chain disruptions from Japan, according to economists of South of the Philippines Island.

For the full year, ISS says the Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growing 5.4 percent, which could show the most favorable gain of 6.0 percent growth between 2000 until 2012.

A May 11 economic report written by the bank's financial market group led by economist Emilio Neri attributed these projections to several favorable factors about the domestic economy that were non-existing the recent immediate.

"The investment-driven growth seen in 2010 is expected to have brought the investors to confidence in 2011, as investors remain hopeful that the new government is determined to continue leveling the playing field among the various segments of the economy," the report said.

For instance, it noted that the Bureau of Internal Revenue's administrative reforms efforts such as the run after tax evaders (BATE) program appeared to be gaining traction.

"The BIR's nearly 15-percent growth in collections in the first quarter was a notable ramp-up over its performance during the same period in 2010. This improvement has been partly attributed to the BIR's efforts to widen the scope of taxpayers by capturing segments of the public that were traditionally able to escape the tax net, sending a very positive signal to the business community," the report said.

International credit rating agencies have already taken notice, BPI noted. Japan Credit Rating Corp. and Moody's Investor Services both improved their Philippine outlook to "positive", paving the way for possible ratings upgrades in the near to medium term.

BPI said the domestic loan sector has also shown promise, evolving from being a "perennial laid and chase" to the domestic economy to becoming a positive contributor as of the fourth quarter of 2010.

"Finally, it is even possible that Japanese manufacturing companies may be looking to outsource, subcontract or even set up shop in the Philippines and other emerging economies in Asia following the impact of the March 11 disaster on Japan economy's productive capacity," the report said.

BPI said there was a less probability that the Philippine economy would replicate the extraordinary growth last year given the decline in government spending and that 2010 would be a more "normal" comparative base year than 2009.

Its outlook of a 5.1 percent first-quarter GDP growth, for instance, was much slower compared to the 7.8 percent a year ago.

"Likewise, recent adverse developments abroad (Middle East-North African unrest and supply chain disruptions from Japan) have compounded the likelihood of the Philippine economy decelerating in the first half of 2011," the BPI report said.

"While this is not significant by large enough to be worrisome, it may be reasonably compelling to disappoint the more bullish market players and trigger risk aversion to the local economy," it said.

BPI also expects inflation to rise to 4.9 percent this year from 4.6 percent in 2010 due to higher oil prices and the implementation of the value-added tax (VAT) on power rates.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE SALES
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Philam unit launches dollar-denominated mutual fund

Money to be invested in Asia-Pacific bonds, equities

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FUND management unit of the Philam group unveiled last week a new dollar-denominated mutual fund targeting investors seeking better returns by participating in a pool of bonds and equities invested across Asian emerging markets.

Philam Asia Balanced Fund, which has been licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to operate as an open-end investment company, now has about $6.5 million in assets under management and a return of about 5 percent a year.

"This is for those who are really looking for US dollar outlets. As you know, most of them are just keeping it in dollar time deposits and even dollar bond funds are not giving very well so there's a lot of interest," fund executive vice president Edna Morales said in an interview during the launch of the new mutual fund last week.

"Right now, investors are looking for yields," she said. "Also, we believe in diversification."

While it may now be more lucrative to invest directly in peso-denominated instruments, there might still be some people who have already made a decision to keep some of their funds in dollars and were now looking for investment outlets for those, she pointed out.

The minimum investment in the mutual fund is $1,000 and additional purchase is possible for at least $1,000.

An open-end investment company is one that issues new shares whenever investors want to buy and those shares are redeemable whenever the investor wants to sell them back to the issuing company.

The new fund aims to provide investors with income and long-term capital appreciation through investment in equities, equity-related securities and debt securities of issuers across Asia-Pacific outside Japan. Specifically, the fund aims to invest across Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

The ideal mix between bond and equities, Morales said, was 50:50, but she said the fund would have the flexibility to alter the percentage weight either way depending on which asset class would have better potential.

The minimum holding period for investors buying shares in the mutual fund was six months, she said.

Morales said the fund was "benchmark-agnostic" on China and India relative to fund benchmarks because of inflation concerns in these markets but "overweight" in the case of the Philippines. She noted that the "overweight" rating on the Philippines was partly due to the fact that variable local currency play against the dollar.

Peso, which provided the seed capital for the new fund, is the investment manager and principal distributor of the new fund. It also entered into a distribution agreement with Asiasek Singapore Ltd., a specialist in global asset management.

This is the unit's third rollout so far. Peso, which has $725 billion assets under management equivalent to about a fourth of the local mutual fund industry.

Vengeance is mine

LUCKY FORTUNATE. Privileged. Choose your word.

It will still apply to the owners of this little Luzon company called Nonoc Nickel Mining, apparently the operator of a mining claim in Surigao, assuming for itself, in only six years or that, windfall profits of almost P13 billion.

Now, keep your eye on the right ball.

The mining site is the 23,000-hectare claim in Surigao del Norte, said to be rich in nickel deposits previously owned by Nonoc Mining, which belonged to the bankrupt Columbian group.

Just to refresh you memory, way back in the 1980s—or during the Aquino (Part 1) administration—Nonoc could not pay Philippine National Bank (still owned by the government at that time, its debts of some P1.3 billion.

Then, Nonoc became for the government another NPA, a nonperforming asset, and at that time, the Asset Privatization Trust (APT), which later became the Privatization and Management Office (PMO), handled all the NPAs for "privatization."

The most valuable—okay, the "only" valuable—asset of Nonoc was the 23,000-hectare claim in Surigao, for which it actually held a so-called mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA), sort of a 25-year lease the government to operate the mining site.

To cut a long story short, in the 1990s, during the time of Fidel Valdez (a.k.a. former President Fidel V. Ramos), the government sold Nonoc Mining, actually, the valuable MPSA) to a firm called Philnico for $250 million—in installments.

Surprise...the owners of Philnico was also the Cabuenas group (Ang Cabs)!

Anyway, when Philnico could not honor the deal, the owner sold it to two other companies called Pacific Nickel Holdings and Pacific Nickel Philippines, or PNPI, and much on the this name PNPI.

With these two companies as new owners, Philnico then entered into another agreement (second time around) with the government to buy Nonoc (i.e. the valuable MPSA) for a higher amount of $294 million, plus P774 million, also in installments.

Still during the time of Enjo Valdez, by some sort of magic or whatever, that same agreement gave birth to a "supplementary agreement."

Simply, the magic in it was that the "right" over the 23,000 hectares among other parties in PNPI, and by the owners to the government) 18294 million, plus 374 million) owned with Philnico Bright.

Obviously, without control over the mining claim, Philnico could not possibly honor its obligations to the government.

Apparently feeling merciful or something, however, the government agreed to give Philnico a lot of chances, such as by extending the period for payment and even giving cuts in the monthly amortization.

Breaktime

Conrado R. Bautista III

Here comes the right ball!

In late 2001, during the time of the next administration of Gloriarroyo, PNPI got a real-time temptation to enter into another agreement, this time with—somewhere—the lucky fortunate privileged Montanos.

Under the agreement, Hinatuan got the "exclusive" rights to operate the 23,000-hectare mining claim in Surigao.

Who owns Hinatuan again? There seems to have been changes in the ownership structure over the years. Still, at that time, it was said to be under the control of failed tycoon "Buddy" Zamora R., whose group also had mining interests in Palawan called Rio Tuba.

Whatever considerations PNPI got for the mining rights here remained a deep secret up to today.

Nobody in the government, both in the outer administration of Gloriarroyo or in the Aquino (Part II) administration, was kind enough to inform, or forget the taxpayers, who shouldered the cash outlays from all these NPAs, in the first place.

But here is a little interesting fact: The government did not get a single US cent, not a single Philippine centavo, out of the purchase price for Nonoc of $294 million, plus P774 million.

Court cases are hanging up to today, to effect preventing the government from getting back Nonoc, or the valuable mining claims. You know how these things work in court. Right, already?

Look, from what I gathered, the last hearing was done some four years ago. Really, four long years ago!

Meanwhile, Hinatuan is said to have been hoarding upon the 23,000 hectares of rich nickel deposits in the Surigao Mineral Reservation.

Here is something just between us girls, and never tell this to anybody in the Aquino (Part II) administration, but they do some serious work. If you check with the SEC, maybe the records would show that Hinatuan has been raking it in since 2004.

In 2005, it was possible that Hinatuan was even in the red, perhaps to the tune of P50 million.

From 2004 to 2009, there might be indications from the SEC records that its net income suddenly ballooned to almost P13 billion in six years.

Even how much dividends were given to the owners, as a result, is interesting. My guess is anywhere between P4 billion and P5 billion.

It all went to the forecaster, lucky privileged owners! Or non-single owners!

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Private

From page B1

...rate sector ...economists, whose outlook on price movements ...ome have influences inflation expectations of the general public.

Results of the survey conducted by the BSP in the first quarter showed that the average inflation forecast for 2011 by private-sector economists stood at 4.8 percent.

This was much higher than the 2011 inflation forecast of 4.1 percent shown in the survey conducted in the fourth quarter of last year.

Nevertheless, the latest inflation forecast was a hairline below the 5-percent ceiling targeted by the government.

The economists surveyed by the BSP-Treasury Bureau from 15 commercial and universal banks and think tanks.

Toyota recognized by ECOP for productivity and quality

ONE of the virtues greatly extolled about Toyota is its pursuit of excellence. A recent affirmation of this is the "Outstanding Achievement in Productivity and Quality" award conferred to Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) during the 2011 Kapisanan sa Industriya (KAMPI) Awards, a biennial activity of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP).

The award was given to Toyota for its successful implementation of programs which consistently enhance its competitiveness, promoting safety in line with productivity through its safety education and training center, and championing efficient production in its supply.

Earlier in the year, Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) Japan conferred the "Excellent Quality Company Award" to TMP for its outstanding performance in quality vehicle production. For the past two consecutive years, TMP has ranked among TMC's top manufacturing plants overseas in terms of quality.

Toyota encourages team members to be involved in the process of continuously improving its operations, especially in the areas of quality and productivity. It likewise promotes a mindset of seeing problems as opportunities. In doing so, not only does it improve quality but it also raises its employees' morale, skills and productivity.

Among the initiatives to promote Kaizen or continuous improvement are local and regional quality and skills competitions that serve to upgrade the competency levels of team members based on global standards. The company-wide Quality Control Circle (QCC) competition encourages QCC groups in the manufacturing line to work on specific problems or technical improvement areas in their workplace. Top QCC teams, with the best quality improvement projects, advance to compete with overseas affiliates in stages held in Thailand and Japan.

The Manufacturing Internal Skills Contest, sponsored by the global Toyota Manufacturing Training Center (TMTC), achieves the same objective. The best performers showcase their talents in the Asia Pacific (ASPAC) Skills Contest in Thailand to challenge team members from other affiliates in the region. In 2010, TMP team member Nick Lasema topped the ASPAC Skills contest in Painting and brought home a gold medal.

Aside from competitions, Toyota practices the "suggestion system" where individual team members are recognized for the improvements they implement in their respective work areas and processes. There is the Hyper Hubs wherein team members conceptualize activities and programs to enhance operations, and define methodologies, indicators and targets. Another activity is the Linawin Kaizen where team members can present workplace improvements to the President and are recognized and given special awards.

The successful roll-out of these constant improvement projects can be traced to the good relations maintained between management and labor. All Team Members share a common vision and work hand-in-hand to enhance industrial harmony in order to ensure that these programs achieve their objectives.

Continuous improvement is practiced, not only in manufacturing, but extends to other operations, especially in the areas of sales and after-sales performance. Toyota recognizes that customer satisfaction is paramount to the company's success and has put emphasis on education and training for its dealers, as well.

Last year, Toyota ranked highest nationwide in the J.D. Power Asia Pacific 2010 Customer Service Index (CSI) study which measures overall satisfaction of customers on the maintenance and repair work done by authorized dealers in the first 12 to 36 months of ownership of their vehicles.

Clearly, Toyota's relentless efforts in improving its operations are reaping not just short-term, but also long-term benefits, more so, as these benefits accrue, quality and deliverability are channeled to the ultimate users – Toyota's loyal customers.

Feed-in tariff rate

From page B5

body. The ERC is tasked to study the rates and their impact on electricity bills and to either approve or disapprove the proposal.

Binamira added that the basis for the universal levy called FIT-allowance was still not yet determined, which represented the total capacity of renewable energy facilities that would be allowed to be constructed within a three-year period.

Still, Binamira pointed out that the NREB FIT-allowance proposal of 11.57 centavos a kWh was much lower than the industry proposal of 16.45 centavos. Once approved, the FIT-allowance will be implemented starting 2014, when all the expected renewable energy facilities would have started operations.

However, local renewable energy developers were still dissatisfied with the NREB proposal and were wondering if they will their investments unless the government gave them a more lucrative FIT rate or installation target.

The FIT rates were meant to assure renewable energy developers of future cash flow in electricity end-users would be charged for the development for the production of energy from renewable sources. With these rates in place, utilities can spread the cost of clean power among their customers. The system is thus expected to encourage investors to go into renewable energy development and production as it ensures viable pricing.

Theresa Cruz-Capellan, president of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance (PSPA), stated that the "NREB provisions was disappointing to local investors and embarrassing to the international community considering that the Philippines is the first country in southeast Asia to pass the landmark renewable Energy Act of 2008.

Capellan explained that developers were willing to be penalized lower FIT rates provided that they be allowed to build enough capacities that could give them "reasonable of scale."

Toyota expects production to normalize by June

Honda says 'situation remains fluid'

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING A cut in production as a result of the Japan crisis, operations at Toyota Motor Corp. plants worldwide will start to go back to normal levels by next month.

This will include production at the Sta. Rosa, Laguna, plant of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP), which halved its output and implemented a three-day workweek scheme to stretch available parts inventories, TMP vice president Raymund Gutierrez said.

"TMC announced on May 11 that Toyota production recovery worldwide will start in June. TMC's near-term production levels are expected to be approximately 70 percent of normal production," he said. "With the improved supply-condition outlook due to the concerted effort of all Toyota suppliers, TMP will adjust production to resume to two-shift operations from June onwards."

TMP reduced production earlier in the month in line with what its Japan headquarters and other Toyota manufacturing facilities worldwide did. Ex-Sta. Rosa plant assembles the Vios and Innova nameplates, both widely popular in their respective segments.

Other car assemblers in the country suffered the same fate as the March 11 earthquake in northern Japan, which caused a tsunami and a near-meltdown of a nuclear facility in Fukushima, damaged some plants manufacturing auto parts and components and even key ports and airports.

PLDT Alpha Enterprise, NTTCom expand IPVPN Network Solution with Ethernet

PLDT Alpha Enterprise, PLDT's recently-launched business management arm handling relationships with top-tier enterprises in the country, and NTT Communications (NTT Com) have expanded their joint Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network (IPVPN) offering to include Ethernet speeds for Japanese customers and other Multinational Corporations.

IPVPN services enable secure multi-site connectivity for large corporations. It is a multipoint to any-to-any networking solution that creates direct data communication links each site via IP. Through the new Ethernet speed offering, bandwidth options are now easily upgraded.

Ethernet enables a fundamental leap in carrier networking due to its scalability, simple and cost effectiveness. Ethernet allows customers to easily scale their bandwidth to higher speeds in line with the growth of their business through easy logical changes no physical re-provisioning is required. This significantly shortens the lead-time for provisioning and lowers the cost of upgrades.

PLDT VP and ALPHA Enterprise Head Joey Hernandez spoke of the positives of Ethernet as the new standard for data communication. "Owing to its unmatched scalability, worldwide Ethernet revenues are expected to grow at an annual growth rate of 25% to US$2.8 billion by 2014, according to an Insight Research study."

PLDT Alpha Enterprise can leverage on NTT Com's worldwide points-of-presence in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, India, Mainland China, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and other areas in Europe and the United States.

The partnership also leverages on PLDT's recently acquired International Certifications on Ethernet - MEF 9 and 14, the only Philippine Telco with such a distinction. "PLDT's compliance with MEF's strictest specifications proves its capability to provide global-standard Ethernet solutions," said PLDT VP and Head of Corporate Business Solutions Victor Tria. "The MEF 9 and 14 certifications validate PLDT's Ethernet network as world-class in quality, robustness and above all, reliability."

NTT Com is Asia's no.1 managed service provider supporting both global and domestic network services all over the world. Together with NTT Docomo, NTT owns 21% of PLDT.

"NTT Com is proud to be a partner of PLDT in offering Ethernet Services to the Enterprise Market. The combined strength of both companies offers a unique value proposition to our clients," shares NTT Executive Advisor Makoto Handa

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BUSINESS

Feed-in tariff rate for renewable energy at 12.57 centavos a kWh

By Amy R. Ramos

PNB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 31, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom, Lapaz Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pedro Gil...

The agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2010 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 28, 2010
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2010 and Matters on the Progress of the Merger of PNB with Allied Banking Corporation
5. Approval of the 2010 Annual Report
6. Approval of the amendment to PNB's Amended By-Laws in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 41(c)(2)(iv) ("Powers/Responsibilities and Duties of Directors) of the Manual of Regulations for Banks ("MORB") of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, i.e. the Corporate Governance Committee shall have at least three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall be Independent Director.
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2010 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Holders of the 2010 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as the resolutions of the Board entitled to vote. Stockholders of record as of May 16, 2011 may vote in person or by proxy. Proxies must be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary, located at the 9F PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2011 will be entitled to notice and vote during this meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. on May 31, 2011.

If you cannot personally attend this meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY of your choice to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2011. All proxies received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 27, 2011, 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Quasi-Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, April 8, 2011

RENATO L. HERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

By virtue of the energy investments, the National Renewable Energy Board has approved higher feed-in-tariff (FIT) rates for renewable energy projects, a move that will, however, burden all power consumers with an additional centavos per kWh consumption, a lawmaker said.

"Rates increased slightly from previous rates based on more information from developers," said DOE head Jose Rene Almendras, who deferred to the Energy Regulatory Commission for the release of specific FIT rates for each resource, namely wind, hydro, ocean, biomass and solar.

Almendras added that the NREB, which is mandated by law to draft the recommended FIT rates and other necessary mechanisms specified under the Renewable Energy Law, was set to submit today its petition to the ERC, in time for the deadline imposed on the

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BUSINESS

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PH exports diversify to offset weakness in Japan

By Abigail L. Ho

POSIT THE Japan crisis hitting the country's top merchandise export, electronics, other sectors have stepped up by registering double-digit growth in the first quarter, giving the country a shot at breaching its 16 percent export growth target for 2011.

In a briefing Friday, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo said the 7.8 percent growth in exports in the first three months was still relatively good, considering the country's dependence on the electronics sector, which was badly hurt by the March 11 earthquake in northern Japan.

He said that the electronics sector usually accounts for around 75 percent of the country's export receipts. In the first quarter, however, the sector accounted for just more than 50 percent of total merchandise exports.

"Electronics (declined) in the first quarter, but our total growth during that period was 7.8 percent. This means that our non-electronic exports grew by double-digits," he said. "Our exports are diversifying and growing strongly. There's strong growth coming from sectors other than electronics."

In the January-March period, he said the country's revenue of exports almost doubled to $407 million and became the second largest merchandise export.

While this development also caused local cooking oil prices to spike, he said this would be good for the country in the long run as it would generate more jobs and revenues for the coconut industry.

Garments exports, he said, went up by almost 17 percent to $465 million, while the woodcrafts and furniture sector jumped by almost 33.5 percent to $306 million.

These double-digit growth rates were indicative of the country's growing strength in sectors other than electronics, he said.

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CDO says price hike possible

IF COMMODITY PRICES hikes continue, a new round of price increases may be in order for processed meat products under the CDO brand, according to Jerome O. Ong, president of CDO Foodsphere Inc.

And price products may mean that or no, in growth for the company is consistent to not to price increases by coming back purchases.

"Like most companies, we are facing the challenge of spiraling commodity prices," Ong said in an interview.

Ong said that Foodsphere is improving manufacturing and energy efficiency as well as its distribution strategy to cope with rising cost of inputs.

The way, he said, the company is able to absorb some of the price increases is not to products such as pork as well as materials such as the rice.

However, if commodity prices continue to go up, the company may consider another round of price increases, he said.

"We are in the middle of a price increase. We had one last March, about 4 to 5 percent," Ong said.

If the company was forced to have another 5-percent increase in prices across its product range, that may result in the growth in sales volume for the year.

For the past five years, or from 2005 to 2010, the company had been churning out 10 to 12 percent average annual growth.

Hardcore are the top sellers aside from burger patties and native specialties such as tocino.

Ben T. Chikwanbo

Bounty Fresh eyes bigger presence, industry growth

Chen represents PH in EOY awards in Monaco

By Rica T. Chikwanbo

BOUNTY FRESH Food Inc. is on an aggressive campaign to expand its presence in the Philippines, said company consultant Tomasino O. Chen, who is representing the Philippines in the prestigious World Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) awards in Monaco this coming June.

"We started with one frozen and 5,000 layers. Now we produce 1 million day-old birds weekly," he said in a press release at the send-off party over the weekend for the winner of the national EOY competition.

Bounty Fresh is thus well positioned, he said, to take advantage of economic growth in the Philippines and the resulting increase in purchasing power and consumption.

A 5-percent growth in gross domestic product per year over the next three to five years should provide enough [growth] opportunities for companies like Bounty Fresh, Chen said.

"If (the Philippines) can achieve at least 6 percent growth each year, Filipinos would have more money in their pockets, and the money earned by OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) would likely be spent on more food or maybe better quality food items, among other things," Chen added.

"I have great eyesight but my vision 2030, or my dream, is to help double Filipinos' consumption of chicken by the year 2030," Chen said.

Presently, each Filipino eats 7.5 to 8 kilograms of chicken yearly.

Chen said his target is for the poultry industry to cover 35 kilograms of chicken to every Filipino each year.

Besides poultry farming, Bounty Fresh is into food retail through company-owned minimarts store under the trade name "Chooks-to-Go."

Chooks-To-Go has 1,300 outlets, which were rolled out over three years.

The target is to reach 1,500 stores within 2011.

Edwin L. Chen, a director of Bounty Fresh, told reporters that Chooks-to-Go can potentially expand to push a big chunk of prospective growth in demand for both farmed and cooked chicken because it could get more accessible to consumers.

Some Filipinos, especially those with lower income, may still feel intimidated going into big stores to buy cooked chicken or to supermarkets to get farmed chicken.

Plan to cap banana plantation size hit

By Dexter L. Lacob

STAKEHOLDERS OF the country's P720-million banana industry have voiced concern over attempts by a foreign-funded lobby to push for the imposition of hectarage limits on banana plantations.

In a statement, the head of the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) said that an anti-industry group has been pushing for the repeal of an old order that removed size limits on land planted with banana—Marcos's largest export product by value.

According to the group, BIR has been urging Malacañang to repeal Executive Order No. 307 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which lifted hectarage caps on export-oriented banana farms, set by Letter of Instruction 750 of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

EO 307 reconcile that EO 47 is considered null and void because it would jeopardize the country's food productivity program's "totally baseless and irrational," stating that the total land area now planted with export bananas is less than one percent of the total agricultural land area of Mindanao.

"Despite this fallacious, export banana generate an average of P720 million in yearly export earnings for the country, provide employment to 240,000 workers, provide local government units with an average of P650 million in taxes," said Barquin.

Southeast Asian country producing and exporting Cavendish bananas, and is the second biggest exporter of the product in the world.

Senator Bongbong Marcos, chairman of the 911 Save-Our-Aquaguard Movement said that EO 307 "does not help the export banana industry jeopardizing the country's food productivity program's "totally baseless and irrational," stating that the total land area now planted with export bananas is less than one percent of the total agricultural land area of Mindanao.

PH banks' bad loan ratio declined in March, says BSP

By Michelle V. Rosca

BAD LOANS as proportion to the total credit portfolio of the country's universal and commercial banks dropped further in March, as the industry continued to observe strict lending standards imposed by regulators.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the proportion of the non-performing loans of these banks to their outstanding loans had been moving lower even ahead of the Asian financial crisis of 1997, whose aftermath pushed the level of bad loans to record highs, until banking reforms led to their gradual decline.

"This [March] is the 20th consecutive month that the non-performing loans [NPL] ratio of universal and commercial banks had been below 4 percent," the BSP said in a statement released Friday. An NPL ratio of 5 percent or below is considered acceptable by regulators.

BUSINESS

NSCB seeks more funds, people

By Nico T. Dizon

THE NATIONAL Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) needs an annual budget of at least P300 million to meet all the statistical requirements of the government, according to secretary general Romulo A. Virola.

Following the launch of the revised and rebased system of national accounts, Virola said in a briefing that the P300 million only refers to initial estimates on the amount of financial support which the agency needs to have about 400 statistical and nonstatistical personnel.

"We want to be present in all regions [of the country]," Virola said.

The present budget of the NSCB is less than P100 million, Virola said.

The NSCB national accounts office had 40 people in 2005 but the number has dropped to just 18 technical personnel at present, with one set to leave to pursue a scholarship, Virola said.

"We don't want to torpedo their positive growth. But we will need to get additional people so that we can serve statistical requirements and even allow other valuable products like the environmental accounting," Virola said.

The agency's technical personnel often get offers of better paying posts in local and multilateral agencies.

Peso to hit 45.21:$1 in Q2

By Reuterd M. Quindoy

THE PESO is seen settling at 45.21 against the US dollar by the end of the second quarter as monetary authorities take steps to curb the local currency's continuing "appreciation bias," according to a joint research by First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

"The peso will continue to have an appreciation bias in the second quarter due to robust exports, remittances [from overseas Filipinos], and a surge in portfolio capital inflows as global fund managers return to emerging markets," the study said.

"However, the [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas] will restrain the appreciation by building up its international reserves further and avoid making foreign exchange losses," it added.

Export earnings for the January-March quarter grew by 7.6 percent to $12.2 billion from $11.3 billion, data from the National Statistics Office show.

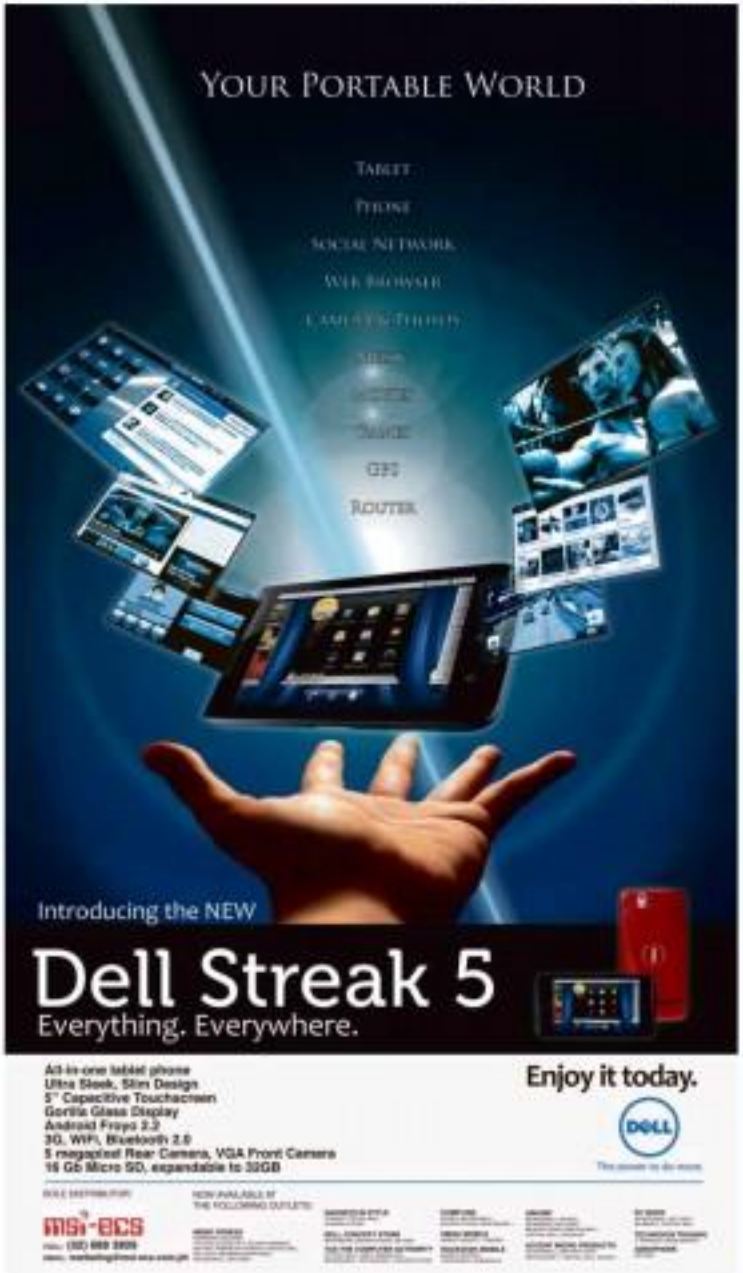
OFW remittances grew 6.9 percent to $5 billion in the first two months of 2011, the BSP reported earlier.

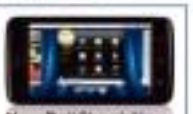
Also, the BSP said a net inflow of foreign portfolio investments was recorded in April, reaching $675.8 million or 223 percent higher than $210 million in the same month last year.

Further, the country's gross international reserves grew to $67.8 billion as of end-April, growing by 3 percent from the previous month's level.

The PSEC and USAID study also said that demand for long-term Philippine debt paper may gradually rise as emerging markets make a comeback when demand for US bonds wane if Washington does not curb its high fiscal deficit.

The paper explained that the likelihood for such scenario is boosted by inflation continuing to fall below earlier expectations.





New Dell Streak Now in the Philippines

Dell Philippines (Philippines) Pte. Ltd. (Dell) announced the launch of the much-awaited Dell Streak in the Philippines. The Dell Streak is an all-in-one ultra-portable 5-inch Android™ powered tablet designed to give users with the best web browsing, digital entertainment, social connection, and personal navigation experience.

HITTING A SWEET SPOT

"The Dell Streak is designed for people who are constantly interacting online and want to expand their ability to access their digital lives on-the-go," said Christopher Papa, Country Manager for Consumer and Small Business, Dell Philippines.

The spacious 5-inch screen is ideal for optimal web browsing experience with ease in typing and pinching. Users can play games and watch HD videos on the brilliant and scratch-resistant Gorilla® Glass screen, capture precious moments with the eye-facing 5MP auto-focus camera with dual LED flash or use the front-facing VGA webcam for video calls. On the go, executives, mobile professionals, and active families can also use the Dell Streak as a portable Wi-Fi hotspot that can be shared with up to eight devices. Additionally, the built-in Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and 3G connectivity will enable users with easy access to video calling and listening to music, updating social networking status in real-time, and staying connected to friends and family through e-mail, text, IM and voice calls. Personal navigation is also enhanced with the integrated A-GPS and e-compass features for location-based applications. "The Dell Streak fills the sweet spot between traditional smartphones and larger-screen tablets and its unique size will help people discover new ways to enjoy the web, connect with friends, and navigate their lives," said Christopher Papa. "We are extremely excited to deliver this new connected experience to consumers. Dell Streak is now available at a suggested retail price of PHP 21,000.00.

Dell Streak features:

- At less than 10mm thickness, the Streak is more portable than any other tablet. It easily slips in a pocket or purse.
- Dell 3Stage user interface which provides instant access to users' favorite contacts, full screen browsing experience with a 5 inch WVGA (480x800) TFT LCD supporting capacitive multi-touch with scratch-resistant Corning Gorilla ® Glass
- High-resolution rear-facing 5MP auto-focus camera with Dual LED flash for still photo/video capture. front-facing VGA webcam for video calls
- Built-in Wi-Fi, 3G HSUPA and Bluetooth connectivity options with the powerful Snapdragon™ mobile processor makes multitasking easy. Allowing users to talk on the phone and browse the web at the same time, or listen to music while using the Google Navigation app.
- Easily integrated social media apps: Twitter™, Facebook, YouTube and Google Maps™
- Integrated Google Maps™ with turn-by-turn navigation, street and satellite views
- The Android application source (SDK) offers more opportunities for growth, to access and download Google Android Market's many applications
- 2GB of internal dedicated storage provides plenty of space to access and download Google Android Market's many options
- Packaged with cushions made from 100 percent sustainable, compostable bamboo
- Removable back panel for easy access to the battery. Removable Micro SD card is Dell Streak will be available with a user accessible 32GB Micro SD expansion memory of 16, 20, 32, or available up to 32 GB* It can store up to 40 movies* or 32,000 photos*, or 16,000 songs* with the 32GB* Micro SDXC card. (*ANDAG: DELL listens to customers and delivers innovative technology and services that put customers at the center of their world. For more information, visit www.dell.com.ph. Android, Android Market and Google Maps are Trademarks of Google, Inc.

BUSINESS

JG Summit income dropped by 36.9% in Q1

Cebu Pacific profit decline strikes parent's bottom line

By Doris C. Dumlao

JG SUMMIT Holdings booked a 36.9 percent year-on-year decline in net income to the first quarter to P1.78 billion due to lower foreign exchange gains and smaller profit share from budget carrier Cebu Pacific.

In a regulatory filing, JG Summit of the Gokongwei said that while some of its business units had performed well, its share in the profit of Cebu Pacific was reduced after the airline experienced record public sell-down last year.

The group sold 35 percent of its stock in the airline during the initial public offering.

As Cebu Pacific's flights increased, it also consumed more fuel, jacking up its aviation fuel expenses at a time when global oil prices were rising.

Aside from the diluted interest, lower foreign exchange dampened the carrier's first quarter net income to P1.2 billion from P1.86 billion last year.

Group-wide, JG Summit also booked lower foreign exchange gains this period as the peso held steadily in the past three months.

Outside core-recurring items, core earnings likewise decreased by 14.2 percent in the first three months to P4.17 billion from a year ago.

Cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization also declined by 4.9 percent to P8.27 billion from a year ago.

Consolidated revenues were up by 14.1 percent from P193.73 billion to P221.93 billion due to the strong performance of all business units. However, equity in net earnings of associates declined by 27.5 percent to P529.4 million during the period.

The food business also posted a 24.4 percent increase in sales due to an increase in volume during the first quarter.

Consolidated operating expenses increased by 15.5 percent as a result of higher general and administrative expenses in telco, airline operations and food business.

JG Summit is a holding company for the following companies: Universal Robina Corp. (branded consumer foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products), Robinsons Land Corp. (property development and hotel management), Digital Telecommunications Infrastructure), Cebu Air (air transportation), JG Summit Petrochemicals Corp. (petrochemicals), and Robinsons Savings Bank (banking services).

Property unit RLC earlier reported that net income attributable to equity holders of parent company for the six months to March amounted to P2.04 billion, up by 13 percent year-on-year.

The Gokongwei group recently signed an agreement to give up its controlling stake in Digitel to favor of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in exchange for a 12.8 percent stake in PLDT. But JG Summit also committed to sell 2.8 percent of its PLDT stake to NTT Docomo of Japan, keeping the remaining 10 percent.

Semirara reports strong Q1

Higher coal prices offset lower sales volume

By Jing R. Reyes

SEMIRARA MINING Corp. of the Consunji family reported a 104 percent growth in its net income to P1.069 billion in the first quarter, despite posting lower volumes of coal exported and domestically sold during the period.

According to the company, consolidated revenues dropped by 2 percent to P5.9 billion from P6.09 billion a year ago. The increase in average export prices for coal and the hike in local demand for the commodity had helped offset the decrease in energy sales.

Domestic demand for Semirara coal was significantly by 58 percent to 1.28 million metric tons, from the 747,000 MT recorded in the first quarter of 2010. On the other hand, export demand softened as shown in the 43 percent drop in total export sales to 98,1398 MT from 1.26 million MT the previous year.

The hike in local sales could be attributed to the increase in purchases by the power industry, which served as the biggest single consumer of Semirara coal. In particular, the commissioning of new coal-fired power plants in the Visayas also boosted sales as the company had also entered into long-term supply contracts with them.

Semirara's other customers, including the cement and industrial plants, also registered increases of 25 percent and 29 percent, respectively, in their coal purchases.

The company's power segment sold a total of 466 gigawatt hours (gWh), of which 79.3 percent was served in transition and bilateral supply contracts, while the rest were sold via the wholesale electricity spot market.

Total volume of energy sold in the first three months of the year was 32 percent lower than the first quarter last year, as the volume of energy generated decreased to a level that was enough to supply the company's contracts. Included there, work was conducted on the company's coal power plant in Calaca, Batangas, during the period, Semirara explained.

The newly rehabilitated Unit 2 of the 600 MW Calaca plant underwent several post-rehabilitation shutdowns to undergo further refinements. While the unit's replacement capacity – at 300 MW – was not upon going on a continuous basis, according to Semirara, Unit 1 registered an average capacity of 300 MW and Unit 2, 371 MW during the period.

PERC earnings surge on oil demand

EXPLORATION firm Philodrilling Resources Corp. posted a 300 percent surge in its net income to P1.24 million in the first quarter, due to higher production and prices during the period.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company said its total revenues rose by 31 percent to $3.431 million from $2.2 million a year ago.

"The 55.42 percent increase was due to higher number of barrels produced at a higher price from 1.74 million barrels at an average price of $72.91 per barrel in the first quarter of 2010, to 2.09 million barrels at an average price of $104.59 per barrel for the same quarter in 2011," the company reported.

Philodrilling's main source of revenues would be the oil fields in Galoin, Silay-Alicia, portion of Isabela Basin and Block, through its share in the oil production. The company currently holds a 3.525-percent working interest in the Forest Hertz Production Sharing Contract.

According to Philodrilling, three oil fields—the Galoin oil field, the Aroanna-Ribbon oil field and the Ghost oil field...continued production in the first quarter of the year, during which three shipments were made to customers. Daily production averaged 21,438 barrels.

The group is preparing the Palm-Nipa oil fields has been planning and awaiting the proposed modification and improvement on rate production platforms, namely the Hunt and Aroanna platforms. Under preparations were the upgrading of the electrical generating systems and a study for the installation of super heads on facilities on the platforms.

In the Philippines, Philodrilling has interests in four petroleum service contracts namely SC 6A (Block Malajon South) and SC 14C2 (West Linapacan), both in Northwest Palawan; SC 47 in offshore Mindoro; and SC 51 in the Sulu Visayan Sea.

It also holds renewable energy service contracts for its proposed wind farm projects in Sual, Pangasinan and Nuboc, Aklan and for a planned 20-megawatt geothermal power plant on Mt. Matching.

Jing R. Reyes

New clients boost Citisec's Q1 sales

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEADING ONLINE stockbrokerage Citisec Online (COL) hiked its first quarter net profit by 27 percent year-on-year to P82 million as it surpassed revenue targets and substantially expanded customer base.

Consolidated revenues jumped by 46 percent to the first three months to P132 million from a year ago, led by the company's Philippine operations. The resulting bottom line, the company reported, was three-to-seven percent-driven by commission generated from customer activity.

COL president Conrado Ilare attributed the increased customer activity to the improved outlook on the economy which in turn is currently benefiting from investment-led economic growth and a low interest rate environment.

"We continue to see the substantial development and growth in our Philippine operations as shown by our customer assets doubled year-on-year to over P12 billion from P6.7 billion," Ilare said.

Philippine operations continue to increase its contribution to overall company revenues, with its 83 percent share now dwarfing the revenue share of a wholly owned overseas brokerage subsidiary Citisec Online.com HK Ltd.

Furthermore, COL's overall customer base hit the 10,000-mark, growing by a hefty 20 percent in the first quarter alone as it continued to reap in new customers from referrals from its loyal customers as well as investor attendees from its free weekly seminars.

"We are very happy to see our customers bring in their friends and family to invest with us and we are thus in a good position of living up to the satisfaction with our products and services, but we are continue to be filled with a good mix of investors eager to learn about the basics of stock market investing as well as how to manage risk and maximize profits through timing it just right," said analyst Justin Barredo, sales head of COL's investor seminar series.

COL holds free weekly seminars on the stock market and on its "Easy Investment Program" that focuses on a gradual investment strategy in the stock market.

The online brokerage also remains the market leader in the Philippine Stock Exchange in terms of volume, accounting for 18.6% of all transactions executed at the local bourse.

Aboitiz unit ramps up power generation

By Amy R. Borres

TO FURTHER strengthen its foothold in the power industry, Aboitiz Power Corp. will increase its generating capacity over the next few years upon completion of several coal-, hydroelectric projects, as well as greenfield and brownfield power projects.

From a total attributable generating capacity of 2,051 megawatts as of end-2010, APC expects to shore up its capacities by 2013 once the rehabilitation of the 75-MW Bakun hydro facility is completed by the third quarter.

APC, together with partner SN Power, had started work on both the Bakun and the 130-MW Binga hydro facilities to raise their capacities to 105 MW and 126 MW, respectively — a move that will significantly augment the power supply in the Luzon grid. Rehabilitation work on Binga will be finished by 2014.

The power firm also expects partial completion of its rehabilitation project for the 467-MW Tiwi-Makban geothermal power facilities within the year. Once completed, the generation capacity and plant availability of these facilities are expected to improve to approximately 464 MW.

In the years ahead, APC plans to embark on greenfield and brownfield developments that could cover 1,000 MW in capacity.

As earlier reported, these projects include the 600-MW coal-fired power plant in Subic. Through its 50 percent-owned Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Inc., and another 300-MW coal-fired power plant in Mindoro, which is considered to be the biggest land source in Mindoro.

Last year, APC and its partners for the existing 232-MW coal plants in the Pagbilao Industrial Estate in Mauban, formed up their collective intention to develop a third coal plant of approximately 150 MW capacity.

The company's wholly-owned subsidiary Hedcor Sabangan Inc. (Hedcor Tadaya) also plans to put up two run-of-river power plants to be located near the existing Sabangan hydropower plant. The two facilities will have a combined capacity of 13.6 MW.

Another subsidiary, Hedcor Tamugan Inc. (Hedcor Tamugan), is expected to push through with the 11.5 MW Hedcor Tamugan hydropower plant project also in Davao.

The 50 Aboitiz Power Group is also in the process of revitalizing several hydropower plant projects. A lesser-held project being reclaimed for its bigger hydropower plant, which is also within the construction of a pumped storage that could potentially increase its capacity by at least 50 MW. The Aboitiz group is likewise evaluating several greenfield hydropower plant projects that each have at least 70 MW of potential capacity.

As wholly-owned subsidiary Hedcor Inc. is also conducting feasibility studies for potential hydropower projects that may have capacities of 5 MW to 10 MW each.

PLDT SME Nation strengthens partnership with GoNegosyo

Present at the signing were (from left) GoNegosyo Executive Director Mon Lopez, GoNegosyo Founder Joey Concepcion, PLDT Smart Vice President and Customer Sales and Marketing Group Head Ariel Tinio, PLDT SME Head Jeff Lontoc and Smart Vice President Luna Alcantara and PLDT SME Marketing and Partnering Head Arnel Amarillo

PLDT SME Nation announced its overlapping partnership with advocacy organization GoNegosyo. The telecommunications giant has been a leading champion of GoNegosyo's mission to develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to build Philippine economy.

The event was marked by a ceremonial merging of hope led by PLDT Senior Vice President Eric Fi Ellsworth and PLDT SME Partners Vice President and Head Kat Luna Alcantara and GoNegosyo Founder Joey Concepcion and Go Negosyo Executive Director Mon Lopez.

Our long-running partnership with Go Negosyo has already yielded great results," said that we would always be ready to provide whatever assistance we can to help them build their business and succeed. We know by listening to our customers and communities like GoNegosyo," said PLDT SME Senior Vice President and Head Kat Luna Alcantara.

PLDT SME believes that Go Negosyo have become trusted names when it comes to providing solutions to implement Joey's DOTS.

Go Negosyo specializes in providing knowledge and creative ideas to would-be and established Filipino entrepreneurs whether it's about starting a business or running an existing business properly and successfully. PLDT SME Nation provides the businesses the communications infrastructure they need to keep their competitive edge, said Alcantara.

One of the projects lined up for this year is GoNegosyo's flagship, a nationwide seminar to teach more entrepreneurship for entrepreneurs. The partnership also has behind the popular Mentor-ME Campaign, featuring a roster of entrepreneurs chosen to be trainees in business. Other activities include the GoNegosyo Youth Summit and Women's Summit.

With SME's generating as much as 45 per cent of the country's income, the SME sector is the backbone of the economy, Concepcion said. Being funded by Go Negosyo, SME's across the Philippines are also a testament to their ingenuity.

"It is an advocacy the Go Negosyo Centers (Negosyo Corporations) go a long, long way in opening hundreds of thousands of Filipinos all throughout the country would not have been possible without the wonderful support of our partners. They are the heroes who share our dream of empowering Filipinos and encouraging an entrepreneurial nation. They are taking the journey with us to make sure our dream of a better life for those who have less in life become a reality," said Concepcion Founder Joey Concepcion.

First Philippine Holdings Corporation

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation will be held on **Monday, May 30, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at the FEB Auditorium, Ground Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City.**

The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the May 31, 2010 Annual Stockholders Meeting
5. Reports of the Chairman & the President
6. Approval/Ratification of the December 31, 2010 Reports and the Audited Financial Statements
7. Ratification of the Acts of the Board of the Executive Committee and of Management
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditors
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record as of March 23, 2011 are entitled to attend and to vote in the said meeting.

All stockholders who will not, are unable, or do not expect to attend the meeting in person may choose to execute and send a valid proxy to our Stock Transfer Agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc., Ground Floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road cor. Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before May 23, 2011. Proxies shall be validated beginning on May 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at the company's office until May 23, 2011.

(SGD.) **ENRIQUE I. QUASON**
Corporate Secretary

For any inquiries relating to shares, shareholdings, dividends and other related matters, please contact or address the same to:

Securities Transfer Services, Inc.
Ground Floor, Benpres Building
Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas, Pasig City
Tel Nos.: 480-0080; 480-0070; 632-6861 to 80; 631-7152; 631-2462
Facsimile No.: 631-7145
E-mail: stsi@stsi.ph

Philippine BUSINESSBANK
A universal bank

Real Avenue Extension corner 6th Ave., Grace Park Caloocan City

BALANCE SHEET
(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 31, 2011

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	251,894,371.67
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	556,614,294.30
Due from Other Banks	369,956,585.86
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets-Net	6,245,000,708.44
Unquoted Debt Securities Classified as Loans-Net	625,297,806.36
Loans and Receivables	
Loans and Receivable - Others	11,482,703,746.80
Loans and Receivables Arising from RA 9182/PD 957	220,000,000.00
Interbank Loans Receivables	170,000,000.00
Other Financial Assets	230,000,871.69
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixture and Equipment-Net	310,000,372.96
Real and Other Properties Acquired-Net	110,000,000.00
Other Assets-Net	241,514,674.27
TOTAL ASSETS	**21,746,971,153.84**
LIABILITIES	
Deposit Liabilities	18,997,464,617.00
Bills Payable	
a) BSP / Interbank Loans	1,000,000,772.00
b) Others	710,000,273.00
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	347,971,911.00
Other Financial Liabilities	160,927,000.00
Other Liabilities	1,031,546,024.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**22,737,906,597.28**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock	995,000,000.00
Other Capital Accounts	110,101,666.00
Retained Earnings	1,000,121,726.41
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**2,105,221,392.41**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**24,843,127,989.69**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Performance Standby Letters of Credit	32,127,000.00
Commercial Letters of Credit	648,135,951.47
Trade Related Guarantees	8,000,013.00
Total Documentary Accounts	
a) Trust and Other Fiduciary Accounts	78,042,000.00
b) Agency Accounts	1,276,963,963.44
Others	830,763,000.00
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**2,868,996,928.91**
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)	710,000,004.72
Past Due Loans Performing, Loans to Trust and Institutions (NPL to TLP)	0.27
Classified Loans to Other Risk Assets	1,140,445,797.59
Specific provisions for loan losses	342,613,604.59
Return on Equity (ROE)	19.73
DOSRI loans and Securities	23,653,977.27
Past due DOSRI loans and receivables	-
Ratio of Past due DOSRI loans and receivables to Tot	-
Compliance with Liquidity Ratio - 5% for Small Enterprises	
a. 5% Small Enterprises	30.00
b. 5% to Medium Enterprises	30.00
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) on Solo Basis, under Go No. 538 or	
(a) for CAR, as applicable	21.28
a. Tier CAR	20.04
b. Tier 1CAR	21.28
Deferred charges not yet Written Down	
Unbooked Accretion for Probable Losses on Financial Instruments Received	

Republic of the Philippines)
Caloocan City) s.s.

We, Evelina A. Abrasaldo and Alice F. Ruiz of the above mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters and facts in the above balance sheet are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) **ALICE F. RUIZ**
Comptroller

(Sgd.) **EVELINA A. ABRASALDO**
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 6th day of January at Caloocan City, affiant exhibiting her Tax Identification No. Community Tax Certificate No. 01881102 issued on Caloocan on January 20, 2011 and Community Tax Certificate No. 01882982 issued on Caloocan on January 6, 2011.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ROBERTO S. SANTOS**
NOTARY PUBLIC UNTIL DECEMBER 2011
Until December 31, 2011
PTR No. 2455523 Caloocan City
IBP No. 810373 Roll No. 29820

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Book No. III
Page No. 96
Series of 2011

STA.LUCIA Residenze

Condo Living at its

Prime

In this day and age, with demands from career and work, as well as the requirements of raising a family, increase as never before, living with comfort and convenience are prime for health and life balance.

The one-roof at the Sta. Lucia Residenze

In this day and age, with demands from career and work, as well as the requirements of raising a family, increase as never before, living with comfort and convenience are prime for health and life balance.

In the eastern side of the Metro, perhaps no residential development is set to offer outstanding comfort, luxury and convenience as the soon-to-rise Sta. Lucia Residenze.

Sta. Lucia Mall

Redefining Condo Living

The Sta. Lucia Residenze is a master-planned community composed of five residential towers that is inarguably architectural as just homage to the stylish houses of the cities of the Mediterranean.

With the architectural and interior design of residential buildings led by the topnotch architectural firm of WD Architects & Associates with interior design by Scanpang & Bridport, the newest residential high-rise community in the east is set to re-define condominium living. It promises to become the newest and trendiest landmark high-rise residential community with its fashionable and elegant design, gardens and sports facilities, superior swimming pool and landscaped garden amenities that are sure present in other landscaped residential community.

Moreover, the five-tower residential complex will be linked to the Sta. Lucia Mall, one of the country's favorite shopping and entertainment destinations – ensuring great convenience to the Residenze's future owners and residents. The mall boasts of its box-commercial establishments from leisure, dining, entertainment and full department store, with specialty boutiques, as well as banks, hardware shops, pharmacies, internet shops and future SM2 destinations inside the complex. Here, everything that the modern day individual needs is within easy reach.

The Sta. Lucia Residenze mall front of its own appeal, a mall that will be connecting the five towers when fully finished to quickly and conveniently serve the needs of the future residents of the five tower complex.

This mall links the five towers at the ground floor and the first two floors of the towers will have high-end and famous retail shops. This quite incomparable superiority since the Sta. Lucia Mall is just a walk away from Sta. Lucia Residenze. What more can the modern urban homeowner want?

Elegant Living, Comfort and Pleasures

For many of today's families and single individuals who prefer to be independent and to have their own place to call home, condo living has become an affordable and at the same time more convenient alternative to a conventional house and lot home.

Residenze offers unmatched comfort, convenience and luxury in condo living, as the residential component of the Sta. Lucia Center, the master-planned community of Sta. Lucia Land Inc., one of the country's most premiere property developers. In the Metro it has set office buildings and beautiful walkways that will connect Residenze to the Mall and the Brick-road dining complex, that promise to make it one of the most livable and comfortable communities in this side of the metro.

A luxurious and vibrant lifestyle—at the same time—is at the Sta. Lucia Center. Indulge your calm away at the swimming pool. Sip your morning coffee while relaxing at the gazebo around. Play basketball and tone up in spacious sports facilities. Relish the lush greenery amidst restful gardens. Or within short walk is the Sta. Lucia Mall, brushing with complete department store and modern supermarket that offer life's everyday necessities, an age of fashionable boutiques, fast food and casual dining restaurants, cinemas, hardware stores, record bars, bookstores and other specialty shops.

The pool and gazebo at Sta. Lucia Residenze

Sta. Lucia Residenze is where you can relax and be yourself, indulge in your favorite restaurant or shops with all your favorite people, and where everyday conveniences are within easy walk or reach away

Sta. Lucia Residenze one-bedroom unit

Sta. Lucia Residenze Studio unit

Sta. Lucia Residenze garden-studio unit

Monte Carlo

The residential lobby

In the Center of It All

The Sta. Lucia Residenze is at the cusp of the progressive cities of Marikina, Pasig and Antipolo, and the municipality of Cainta. Located beside one of Metro Manila's prime shopping destinations, the Sta. Lucia Mall, the project will be the most residential contemporary of the Sta. Lucia Center, the next big thing in master-planned communities in the eastern part of the Metro.

Sta. Lucia Residenze is just minutes away from the LRT 2 terminal in Santolan, Pasig which connects to the SSMA MRT at Cubao, Quezon City and to the LRT 1 line that traverses the Pasay-Manila-Caloocan corridor offering outstanding location and accessibility.

Superior Location:

- A short commute to the existing Santolan (Pasig City) Terminal of LRT Line 2
- Public utility routes to Katipunan and Cubao, Quezon City and to the business districts in Ortigas Center, Pasig and Mandaluyong and to Greenhills City
- Gateway to Eastern Road – Antipolo City, Tanay and San Mateo

Accessibility:

- Universities and colleges
- Shopping centers and malls
- Hospitals and clinics
- Entertainment centers
- Churches

As is evident, the Residenze's proximity is thus a true win-win, making it the ideal home for the modern family and single individual, those constantly in favored for the convenience and comfort of the resident, yet set in a serene part of the city.

Monte Carlo Soon to Break Ground

Monte Carlo, the first of the five tower Sta. Lucia Residenze condominium complex, will soon break ground as the Sta. Lucia Center. It will bring to life the vibrant energy of one of Europe's most exquisite resorts and casinos.

The 23-storey residential tower offer 238 units composed of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units including a limited number of garden units, much less dense than the traditional cramped condominiums currently being offered by other developers.

For those who pay for the luxury to be at the top (17th to 21st floors) are the one and two bedroom units, giving a bird's-eye view of the Antipolo and San Mateo hills mingle to the east and the Marikina and Pasig valley in opposite sides. For the practical-minded are the studio units which are located in the 3rd to 16th floors, 16 of the studio units are at the 3rd floor recreation area, have their own piece of the garden facing the common landscaped garden grounds.

All units come fully finished with complete kitchen and bathrooms. The future Monte Carlo residents will thus have the privilege of owning the newest condominium and be part of the future landmark that is Sta. Lucia Residenze.

ROYALE HOMES
MARKETING CORPORATION

Unveiling for this Hot Property Set this Hot Summer

Royale Homes Marketing Corporation is exclusively marketing this latest luxury prime residential condominium in the east.

To promote the project, Sta. Lucia Land and Royale Homes have set the first public viewing of this future landmark, dubbed "SUMMER HOMES '11". Set amidst a tropical backdrop with nursery here and balcony flair, as the hot summer comes to a close this 2011, the Sta. Lucia Residenze viewing will be held at the Sta. Lucia Mall Entertainment Center on May 19 (Thursday). Registration starts at 3:30 p.m.

Register now and make the wise move. For more information, visit www.royalehomes.ph or call (02) 384-1104 or 09328575678.

STA.LUCIA LAND INC.
Building Better Lives.

BUSINESS

Germany powers eurozone economic surge

Region grows twice as fast as US despite debt concerns

LONDON—Eurozone booting economic growth in Germany and a surprise rebound in Greece helped the 17-nation eurozone start the new year with a bang, with the region growing twice as fast as the US despite constant fears about debt.

The eurozone's economy expanded by a seasonally adjusted 0.8 percent in the first three months of the year, according to Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, on Friday.

That was more than double the 0.3 percent growth posted in the previous three-month period, ahead of analysts' expectations for a 0.6 percent increase and twice US growth.

"The eurozone is therefore significantly outperforming all other major developed economies at the moment," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit.

The figures have cemented expectations that the European Central Bank will follow up April's interest rate increase—the first in nearly three years—with another, possibly in July, despite some countries' debt troubles.

In year-on-year terms, the eurozone economy grew 2.5 percent, roughly in line with what many say should be its long-term average.

Olli Rehn, the European commissioner in charge of monetary and economic affairs, said the EU will surpass the prehistorical crisis growth levels next year.

That's far sooner than most predicted in 2008, when the global economy sank into its deepest and longest recession after the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers brought the financial system to its knees.

"The main message in our forecast is that the economic recovery in Europe is solid and consistent, despite recent renewed turbulence and tensions in the sovereign debt market," Rehn said.

The Commission's new forecasts are for the eurozone to grow 1.6 percent this year and the wider 27-nation EU, which includes non-euro members such as Britain, by 1.6 percent.

Germany strongly grows its show size, German was the main reason the eurozone grew so fast in the first quarter.

Its 1.5 percent growth means the EU's largest economy has now made up all the output lost during the recession. It was driven by a healthy balance of exports and household spending.

"Germany is the engine of growth among industrial countries...and not just in Europe," German Economy Minister Philipp Rösler said.

France's economy, the eurozone's second biggest, expanded by a robust 1 per cent on higher consumer spending and business investment.

Northern economies like the Netherlands grew strongly, while Italy and Spain lagged behind.

The figures must surprisingly, given the debt quagmire it is in, Greece posted solid growth of 0.8 percent, its first economic expansion since the fourth quarter of 2009. However, the increase is unlikely to signal a sustained rebound as the previous quarter's contraction was doubled to a colossal 2.8 percent.

Portugal, another bailout recipient, returned to recession, its 0.7 percent quarterly decline follows the 0.6 percent drop recorded in the previous three-month period—a recession is classified as two consecutive quarters of negative growth. Portugal is the latest eurozone casualty to agree to a bailout, following Greece and Ireland.

These countries' problems are likely to be protracted as they struggle to reduce their mountains of debt. It's these problems, particularly those confronting Greece, that continue to dominate investors' concerns, however.

The Commission, the EU's executive, on Friday raised its debt forecasts for all three of clients.

That will likely spice up discussions among eurozone governments on whether Greece will need a restated bailout.

It will also fuel calls from many economists who say Greece needs to restructure its debts—to delay or lower its bond repayments. Eurozone ministers will start declaring how to help Greece in a meeting on Monday.

Despite the ongoing debt crisis in the eurozone, the European Central Bank is expected to carry on raising interest rates over the coming few months, especially as the economic recovery becomes entrenched. AP

US consumer prices rise on food, gas costs

WASHINGTON—US consumers paid more for gas and food in April, lifting inflation to its highest level in two and a half years. But inflationary pressures have begun to ease this month, and analysts say some prices could taper off by summer.

The Consumer Price Index increased 0.4 percent in April, the Labor Department said. In the past 12 months, prices have risen 3.2 percent. That's the biggest year-over-year gain since November 2007 through October 2008.

Excluding volatile food and energy, which account for about 20 percent of the CPI, the index increased 0.2 percent in April and has risen 1.3 percent over the past 12 months. That's still below the level the Federal Reserve considers a healthy pace of inflation.

Economists like to study costs outside food and energy—the so-called "core" prices...to see long-term trends. Food and energy can rise or fall sharply from month to month.

The cost of new and used cars, clothing and medical care all increased, pushing up the core index. Gas prices likely increased because of temporary parts shortages caused by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Most other prices were subdued.

Oil has fallen from $114 a barrel earlier this month to about $100 Friday. Prices of corn and other grains have also declined in recent days.

Economists say gas and food prices should fall later this year. High prices are likely slowing the economy this quarter, but growth should increase in the second half of this year, they say.

"With commodity prices now dropping back, it looks like inflation is close to peaking," said Brad Ashworth, chief US economist for Capital Economics. He says year-over-year inflation should start to decline in the next several months, although core prices should continue to rise. The Federal Reserve won't need to start raising interest rates until next year to keep inflation in check, he said.

The price of gasoline rose 3.3 percent in April. That accounted for half of last month's increase. Gas has risen more than 10 percent in the past year because of demand for fast-growing developing countries and political turmoil in the Middle East. Gasoline is averaging $3.988 a gallon (about $1 a liter) nationwide, up $1.09 from last year.

Food prices increased 0.4 percent last month. That was half the previous month's increase, which was the largest in nearly three years. The price of fresh vegetables fell. Dairy, meat, fish and eggs all rose. AP

THE KING OF SING ALONG

Long before the karaoke and the videoke, a Pinoy invented an electric keyboard that was an organ that was a horn that was a radio that was a whole band in one music machine! People called it the "one-man-band" because it gave off a complete band sound (drums included!) playing just one piano-like machine. Any singer could enjoy a whole band as back-up with just one instrument.

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Kodak wins round vs Apple

ROCHESTER, New York—Shares of Eastman Kodak Co. shot higher Friday after a judge at the US International Trade Commission agreed Apple Inc.'s digital-camera patent claims against the photography pioneer.

Kodak's technology does not infringe on Apple's patent rights, and one of the two patents in dispute is invalid, Robert Bogers Jr., a judge at the Federal agency that oversees trade disputes, said in a preliminary ruling late Thursday.

His decision is subject to review by the agency's six commissioners.

Kodak's stock rose 35 cents, or 5.3 percent, to $7 in midday trading but had traded as high as $8.09 earlier in the day.

Kodak is still attempting to negotiate a royalty-paying deal worth up to $1 billion in a separate claim against Apple and Research in Motion, the smartphone giants, over a 2004 imaging patent. The commission, based in Washington, DC, agreed in March to conduct claim by June 22.

"We're pleased by this ruling and we are looking forward to the full ITC commission's decision in our case against Apple and HTC" in June, Kodak said in a statement.

Apple spokesperson Kristin Huguet said the iPhone maker based in Cupertino, California, does not comment on pending litigation.

Kodak, the 131-year-old camera company based in Rochester, New York, has amassed more than 1,000 digital-imaging patents, and almost all of today's digital cameras rely on that technology. Moving in rich areas of innovation has become an indispensable tool in its long and painful digital turnaround.

After failed negotiations, Kodak filed a complaint with the commission in January 2010 against Apple and the BlackBerry maker RIM. It also filed two lawsuits against Apple in federal court in Rochester, but it has not specified the damages it is seeking.

Three months later, Apple claimed that some Kodak camera and video cameras functions of its patents. One intention relates to a camera's ability to process several images at the same time, the other enables a camera to automatically handle adjustments to color, sharpness and other processes. AP

Wall St. faces grim data

NEW YORK—US equity markets wrapped up a tough week of commodity and currency volatility fairly intact, but investors face data on the depressed housing sector this week almost certain to be grim.

Swings in oil prices and the dollar sparked risk aversion as investors grappled with conflicting signals about the strength of the US and global economic recovery.

Stocks pulled back from a sharp bull run that many observers said had left them overvalued.

The blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.24 percent from the previous week, closing Friday at 12,595.75.

The S&P 500 index, a broader measure of the markets, lost 0.18 percent over the week at 1,337.77.

And the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite managed to eke out a 0.02 percent gain at 2,820.47.

"The good news is that the averages held up," said Marc Pado at Cantor Fitzgerald.

"It's not the end of the bull market but a moment to get prepared for a pullback or a correction in the summer."

With commodity markets nervous and the dollar strengthening, the best-performing sectors in recent months found themselves in trouble. Energy, base materials, metals and mining.

"Money rotated into very defensive groups, the kind of where people put their money if you were worried the economy was going to falter or tank, beverages, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, health care, non-durable products like soap" all outperformed buyers, Pado said.

"When those groups do very well, it's not typically a positive," he added.

Last month's rare sharp falls on Wall Street, Wednesday and Friday, came in tandem with a significant strengthening of the dollar against the euro, as investors worried about the Greek sovereign debt crisis.

Speculation mounted that Greece will need a bigger bailout from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund to avoid default on its debt.

Athens received a 110-billion-euro ($155 billion) bailout from the EU and IMF a year ago, but a severe recession has complicated the government's efforts to clean up its finances.

Markets were expected to focus on meetings of the eurozone and EU finance ministers on Monday and Tuesday when the Greek situation was seen as high on the agenda. AFP

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INFOTECH

LG Optimus primed for Philippine market

THE WORLD'S first smartphone with dual core processor, the LG Optimus 2X (P999), will soon hit Philippine shelves, according to LG Electronics.

The tech giant collaborated with NVIDIA, the graphics powerhouse behind the chip, to come out with what may be considered to be the world's first superphone.

The LG brand Optimus, which means "best" in Latin, is comprised of devices running on a brings of popular operating systems and Android Tablet PC.

The Optimus series is the result of consumer consumer research, focusing on how people gather information in today's digital age.

The LG Optimus 2X, which is expected to hit Philippine shores in May, is equipped with the NVIDIA Tegra 2 dual-core processor that can clock speeds of 1GHz and boasts of low power consumption and high video and audio performance.

Not only does the LG Optimus 2X mean more powerful multimedia features, the Tegra 2 processor makes for faster, smoother Web browsing and multitasking with virtually no screen lag.

The LG Optimus 2X offers 1080p HD video playback and recording, offering ease and expanded content supported by HD-full interface.

The LG Optimus 2X can connect wirelessly to any HDMI compatible digital device, such as HDTVs, for a console-like gaming experience, taking full advantage of the phone's motion-sensing through HDMI, accelerometer and gyro sensors.

In addition, it incorporates a 4 inch WVGA LCD full touchscreen as well as an 8-megapixel camera – perfect gaming to capture those important moments which can easily be shared on social networking sites anywhere, anytime.

"This is only the beginning to our intelligent smartphone series," said Richard Javier, mobile communications head of LG Electronics Philippines. "LG is a pioneer in mobile communications and we aim to continue developing innovative technology and providing convenient mobile communications experience for our customers in the near future."

Javier added that the LG Optimus 2X is a great achievement for the company, extending experts time in the smartphone industry.

Powered by Android 2.2, which is upgradable to 2.3, LG Optimus 2X provides a unique mobile experience allowing for more productivities while on the go.

Also, users can enjoy nearly 150,000 apps through the Android Market.

With new apps, GMA 7 levels up news services

By Paolo G. Montecillo

NOW'S SNU information services offered by one the country's largest television networks may now be accessed anywhere, any time through Apple's iPhone and other smartphone devices.

GMA Network Inc. announced that it had recently launched its new mobile applications for Apple devices, such as the iPhone and iPad, and for mobile phones running on Google's Android operating system.

"The mobile applications for Android and iOS devices allow users to get news content at their leisure," the TV network said in a statement. "They also provide automatic updates of news stories and photos when a connection is detected. Where offline, users can continue reading previously downloaded content. Everything is downloaded directly to the mobile device."

GMA News Online is the first Philippine news site with its own Android application. Mobile phones using Google's Android mobile OS are now the world's fastest selling smartphones.

Based on independent research from Gartner Inc., Android powered devices now occupy the top spot in the US smartphone market.

In the Philippines, entry-level models of Android smartphones are widely available for as low as P4,000 per unit.

Barely two months after its release in the iTunes Store, GMA News Online's iPhone app is now in the Top 3 for the news category in the Philippines.

Both apps have received an average rating of five stars from users.

The apps offer other functionalities such as sharing of news feeds via Facebook.

Upgraded versions with video and audio streaming, commenting platform, and user-customization are being developed, GMA 7 said.

"We have a high regard for the comments of our users and utilize these to further enhance our products. At the same time, we continually source levels and user requirements so we can provide them with their needs like no other online news site can," it said.

According to GMA News Online editor-in-chief Howie Severino, the network hopes to establish itself as the local leader in mobile Internet with the launch of the two apps.

"Our new applications are part of our effort to compete in the exploding mobile Internet field. We now have both Android and Apple apps, but we're far from done. Our philosophy is constant improvement," Severino said.

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  June 9, 2011 (Wednesday) 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

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ABENSON

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IT'S YAMMER TIME

Supersuite for tomorrow's workplace

SAN FRANCISCO—Yammer, an enterprise social networking company, has partnered with cloud-based Financials and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software maker provider NetSuite to revolutionize enterprise and workplace communication.

At the opening hour of the three-day SuiteWorld 2011 last Tuesday, NetSuite president and CEO Zach Nelson and his counterpart in Yammer, David Sacks, announced the "integration" between the two companies which allowed "mission-critical data [...] to be socialized within an enterprise."

The Yammer chief demonstrated how activities taking place in a system of record such as NetSuite—generation of invoices, product shipment fulfillment and the like—can be fed to online conversations—could be "socialized" and transmitted as an activity stream, to Yammer's enterprise social networking platform.

The integration marks the debut of Yammer Activity Streams, which are intended to aggregate activity stream across a wide variety of enterprise applications.

By importing content from like tools, Yammer Activity Streams can provide users with an instant snapshot of NetSuite activities inside Yammer.

The new offering highlights technology advances such as the new SuiteApp at SetSuite called Sustainfield and Yammer's Activity Streams.

With Sustainfield, users can follow records of interest in NetSuite and content, which are automatically generated and can be syndicated in an external social discussion feed. The SuiteSocial content is integrated and presented in Yammer's open activity stories in Yammer's new Activity Streams.

The system brings the entire organization in a company together inside a private and secure enterprise social network. Although Yammer is designed to mimic consumer products like Facebook and Twitter, it is an enterprise grade software built from the ground up to further business objectives, according to a statement issued by Yammer.

"[The offering] reduces the need for meetings, increases communication across silos and helps users employees get up to speed faster," it added.

The Yammer system allows microblogging; creation of groups to collaborate with smaller teams within a network; organization and classification of content by topics; users to keep track of information that matter most by following people and other content; locate content confidential, profiling; creation of directories; private messaging; and linking to external networks and with partners outside the enterprise's network but within protected communities.

"NetSuites and NetSuite share a common vision where systems of record such as NetSuite can communicate through systems of engagement such as Yammer to make enterprise collaboration and communication more efficient," Nelson said. "The new integration of NetSuite and Yammer is an important advancement for NetSuite customers to enable easy communication and collaboration around activity taking place within NetSuite—in a private and social Yammer environment." Yammer and NetSuite will be launched in the second quarter while the NetSuite integration will be done by the third quarter. Gerrie Galleanes-Martinez

Live large with Xperia

EXPERIENCE ALL that the Sony Ericsson Xperia arc can offer for your multimedia and Internet pleasure.

The Xperia arc can connect via HSDPA to Sony Ericsson's TV screen and display superb visual quality for imaging, gaming and sharing pictures, videos and other entertainment contents with friends.

The Xperia arc has a 4.2-inch mobile-rich mirrored glass screen called the Reality Display, powered by the Sony Ericsson Mobile Engine.

This Sony screen technology brings more reflection, contrast and clearer, more vibrant colors and a sharpness filter, which together provide sharp, crisp and clear images on the screen.

The Xperia arc comes packaged with an HDMI cable, allowing users to plug and instantly view their Android smartphone's contents on the big screen.

Nonetheless it's watching videos or your picture slideshow, playing HD games, checking map locations, or even video chatting, the HD big screen viewing experience promises enhanced pleasure.

Aside from the Sony Ericsson Mobile Engine, the Xperia arc also utilizes Sony Exmor R mobile BSI sensor, which delivers high quality stills or videos even in low light conditions.

The Sony Exmor R technology can also be found in Sony Cyber-shots and Handycams.

The Xperia arc has an 8.1-megapixel camera with Sony Smart Zoom function.

This lets Xperia arc stay in close on the current portion of interest in your photo while zooming in to image degradation of other digital zooms.

"Through Xperia, we aim to create the most entertaining smartphones. Sony technology has always been state-of-the-art delivering high consumer appeal. We can't wait to translate great entertainment experiences. Having Sony as a parent company is a great advantage as we are the only smartphone company that can offer the best of Android and Sony—all integrated into a beautiful and easy-to-use smartphone," said Sony Ericsson GM Dennis Mortensen.

The Sony Ericsson Xperia arc comes in midnight blue and mercury silver.

Customers who purchase the Xperia arc can choose from one of two HD game titles to download until June 30, 2011.

Some of the exciting HD game choices include Asphalt 5, Tom Clancy's HAWX, Assassin's Creed and Real Football 2011.

Specially marked kits of the Xperia arc will also come with the AM-600 Sony Ericsson car charger.

Sony Ericsson concept shops at the Digital Exchange in Glorietta, 3M North SM City, Cybernium, 3M Megamall Cybernium, Robinson's Place Ermita and 3M Mall of Asia Cybernium offer demonstrations of the Xperia arc (subsidies start at P1 with Sony Ericsson TVs.

From Nokia, kid-friendly apps

SUMMER IS definitely a kid's most favorite season, with fun and exciting activities lined up to make his or her vacation memorable for...

So what does a kid do when the hell broke in? 4 Nokia phone packed with kid-friendly apps that may be downloaded for free from Ovi Store (ovi.nokia.com) and could ought to provide an interest.

● **Kingsport Bible.** Like the classic game of Hangman, the idea is to solve the pre-determined word by filling in the missing letters. This version has done away with the "hanging man" and replaced it with a rabbit, which is more suitable for kids. As with all the others, this app has a child-lock feature, so you can hand your phone over without fear of inadvertent phone calls or any unknown downloads from the Internet.

● **Lamp.** A fun and creative way for children to make music from the sounds around them. Lamp can turn the sound of your washing machine, the doorbell or even the cat purring into a musical masterpiece with little effort. This app is a great way to encourage children to express their musical abilities.

● **Match Brain.** This one is for the slightly older kids. This app helps children improve their calculation speed in solving arithmetic problems.

● **Jigsaw Puzzle.** A classic game, jigsaw puzzles combine to let us all have fun for relaxing the game during lot. This one is designed with children in mind, with nine pieces as a starter puzzle to 25 pieces for the master level.

● **Globle.** Aimed at younger children, Globle teaches the alphabet and numbers in a fun and interactive way using images, music and voice. Images appear on screen and a child must determine how many of that time he or she sees, or what letter of the alphabet the item begins with.

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 2011-009 – Goods
BULK PURCHASE OF PRINTED FORMS FOR 2011

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in Pesos or Peso	Delivery/Completion	Deadline/Opening of Bids/Deadline	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
P 11,818,000.00 Eleven Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos	Requirements for items covered 2011 calendar days	May 30, 2011 Monday 1:00 p.m.	P10,000.00

1. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept the bid most advantageous to the government.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a one (1) envelope system, wherein all qualified bidders are invited to submit their bids. Bidders shall comply with the requirements of Section 23 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the SSS and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting May 16, 2011 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00 to the address below and upon payment of an official receipt.
The method of payment will be in cash or by manager's check. Foreign currency shall be converted to Philippine Peso based on the prevailing exchange rate as published in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) reference rate bulletin on the day of the bid opening. The Bidding Documents may be requested personally by the prospective Bidder or by his authorized representative.
It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the SSS provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.
6. Bids must be delivered to the Head Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Main Building, East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City on the following specified dates. Bidders must be present personally or authorize in any of the scheduled times and at the address indicated in ITB Clause 7.
Bid opening shall be in the Head Room, 2nd Floor, SSS Main Building, East Ave., Diliman, QC. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address indicated above. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bidders shall submit their bids through delivery by hand or courier only. Electronic, telex, telegraphic or facsimile bids shall not be accepted. Bids must be received on the date and time stipulated in the Invitation to Bid. Late bids shall be returned unopened to the bidders.
8. The SSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. For further information, please refer to:
JO JOHNSON VELA V. BAÑADERA-PH
Office of the SSS Bids and Awards Committee
Member-Secretariat Section / Procurement Unit - Deputy Site
Tel. No.: 920-6401 loc. 3107
jvbanadera@yahoo.com

(signed)
EDUARDO C. JACABAN
Cashier
Chairman

(ITB-May 16, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naval Station Jose Francisco, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTING SERVICES
FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF BID LOT I

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the General Appropriations Act of 2011 intends to apply the sum of the Implementation of the Feasibility Study and Master Development Plan of the Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City; Naval Station Jose Francisco, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City; Bais Amphibious Base and Naval Station Tomas Cloma, Sasa, Davao City;

The 1st PREF-JCLI Excellence Awards 2011

THE FAST PERFORMING real estate practitioners, projects and programs will finally be recognized in the first PREF-JCLI Excellence Awards 2011 which will be one of the highlights of this year's Philippine Real Estate Festival. The Excellence Awards, which is sponsored by JC Leaders International Inc. will be held on July 30 at The Pearl El Trade Center, Pasay City.

The PREF-JCLI Excellence Awards 2011, will showcase the contributions of real estate industry professionals in promoting projects and programs that will contribute not only to the growth of the property sector but to the country's economic development in general. The awards will also underscore the importance of having a multi-disciplinary approach to the design and implementation of a real estate project. This is also in conjunction to the theme of this year's PREF which is "Real Estate, Tourism and Media: A Tripartite Collaboration for National Progress."

The Excellence Awards is geared to be the standard for excellence and stellar achievements among real estate practitioners. JCLI was formed in 2007 as a corporate entity that will cater to the past and present Jaycees, 40 years and above, with the end in view of helping the JCI Positive and to ensure the member of JC chapters times that, the organization has instituted various projects and programs such as The Outgoing Life Award, The Outstanding Leaders (TOL) International Project, and Global Response to Environment through Conservation, Advocacy, Rehabilitation and Development (Green Card).

JCLI has formulated an awards committee which will be in charge of setting the guidelines, acceptance of nominees, and conducting of deliberation proceedings for the Excellence Awards. The types and categories of awards are:

Individual awards: 1. Blue Outstanding Marketing Manager Award, 2. Most Outstanding Marketing Representative Award, 3. Most Creative Marketing Collaterals Designer Award, 4. Most Outstanding Marketing Group (collective award), 5. Most Outstanding Real Estate Broker Award, and 6. Most Outstanding Housing and Real Estate Designer Award.

Corporate (team) awards: 1. Most Outstanding Corporate Social Governance Campaign, 2. Most Outstanding Project on Urban Renewal, 3. Most Outstanding Real Estate Project for the Low Privileged, 4. Most Outstanding Nature Development and Preservation Project, 5. Most Outstanding Sales Promotion Innovation Award, 6. Most Outstanding Financial Package Assistance Non-Financial Institution, and 7. Most Outstanding Financial Package Assistance Financial Institution.

Technical awards: 1. Most Outstanding Development High Rise Innovation Designer Award, 2. Most Outstanding On-Site Display Award (Unit, Show and Resale), plus two special Mentioned, 3. Most Outstanding Green Concept Design Award, and 4. Special Mention's Recognition Award.

Special awards: 1. Best Booth, and 2. Best Marketing Collateral.

The JCLI will also hold its 1st JCI Chairman's Invitational Golf Tournament on July 22 at the South Forbes Golf Course, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, in lieu of the awards presentation. Two hundred ten (sixty) foursome (P2,500 each will be available to the participants of the golf tourney.

For inquiries, call PREF Events Management at tel. nos. 415-2038 or 664-0326, or e-mail at pref_eventsmgt@yahoo.com.

(ABOVE) At the signing of the memorandum of agreement between PREF Events Management and JCI Leaders International Inc. for the Excellence Awards 2011 (from left) JCI Makati PREF Events Management's president Perie Rosa, Jhon Chris Ilan and Jun Cerca

AXA PHILS BANCASSURANCE AWARDEES

Alain Hermann (left), president and CEO of AXA Philippines, awards Andre Dorizon and Maria Cristina Custodio insurance and (from left), respectively) with the International Award AXA Trophies at the Bancassurance Annual Awards held at the Peninsula Manila recently. The Bancassurance channel, which has proven itself to be a model for AXA's overall high 30 percent growth in total premium income, with 177 percent jump in new business income. Also included in (from) Raymundo Ong(R), chief bancassurance officer, AXA Philippines. AXA Philippines is a joint venture of the Global AXA Group and the Metrobank Group, the country's largest financial conglomerate with more P300 billion in assets.

FPD ASIA PROPERTY SERVICES IS NOW ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

FPD Asia Property Services, the pioneer and leading property and facilities management company in the country, recently received its third ISO quality system recertification following a rigorous certification in accordance with international Standard ISO 9001:2008. The new standard ISO certification was achieved through SGS Philippines Inc. an accredited certification body, with the assistance of its lead auditor.

The iconic FPD Asia first registered its quality systems in 2006. Over the past years, the company has continually improved its service processes to meet the international quality standards of ISO 9001:2008. The successful recertification took place recently at FPD Asia Central Office at Net One Center, Fort Bonifacio Global City and is valid until 2012. Receiving the certification are (from left) Elizabeth Tabuy, FPD Asia's director and general manager; Ellie Ann Lyn Lopez, SGS auditor; Judith Ann Ilan; Rommel Dizon, management representative and members of the management committee of FPD Asia. For more info visit www.fpdasiacorp.com or call 813-2400.

ROCHE HANDS OVER DONATION TO PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Pharmaceutical company Roche recently provided a grant to the Philippine General Hospital-Rheumatology Section for the improvement of its rheumatology arthritis patient database. The Rheumatoid Arthritis Database and Registry (Radar) will be used as a research tool to evaluate rheumatoid arthritis patients subjected to treatment with anti-rheumatic disease management. Radar is also envisioned to expand its reach to other members of the Philippine Rheumatology Association (PRA) and other rheumatology institutions and hospitals. The grant was formally made by Roche's Analytics and Commercial Effectiveness Director Marilou Sara and process head manager Rubin Lopez to Dr. Agnes Mata, PGH Department of Medicine chair and Dr. Tony Pamugas, PGH chief of Rheumatology. Also in the grantor's delegation were Jean Dy, Jose Francisco Lorenzo, PRA president; PGH Section of Rheumatology consultants, fellows, and Roche employees.

BROOKS INKS DEAL WITH AMC FOR 'RUN HAPPY' EVENT

Eduardo and Rosanna Ocampo (second from left) Country President of the event will benefit the Likelihood Foundation Special Children for the construction of its special needs training center in Fort Bonifacio. Registration for each ride is ongoing. For more information, call 811-8888 or visit www.runhappyphilippines.com.ph.

PRODUCT FILES

Water that's safe for drinking and swimming

PEOPLE DON'T realize that drinking water straight from their faucet without treating it are at risk of getting sicken in the long term. That's because tap water is treated with chlorine, which in turn causes free and combined residual chlorine, arsenic, according to chemistries, a carcinogenic that causes bladder and kidney cancer and eye irritation.

Elimination of water to different from purifying or distilling. With purifying, water becomes acidic and more than half of the water being treated is wasted, while distilling requires electricity that is also not as cost as good. The Electrosteam UHW600 is environmentally safe as it doesn't require the traditional backwash of reverse osmosis that causes away 70% of the water down the drain. The ionization process, on the other hand, has proven to eliminate harmful arsenic, water hardness, 4% to 8 pm bought a modified union. The water produced through this treatment is absolutely safe and fit for human consumption.

The fully assembled compact DGH certified Electrosteam UHW600 is locally manufactured, so an operator costs only P70,000. Marlon Cruz, Electrosteam's nearby needs, fresh graduates or for a sideline income that can give an ROI of less than 6 months without royalties or franchise fees. This is a stress-free business and it recession-proof. The water business can thrive during the financial crisis because people will get to no business that is a necessity for life.

Studies show that it's actually the safest and most cost-effective way to treat your water. If you compare it, a gallon of water only costs 10 centavos including the electricity needed to run the machine. So much efficient and affordability of production, the operator gets triple recommended purified water similar to the world's famous Fiuire of France.

The DGH-certified Electrosteam UHW600 Water Ionizer can produce up to 3,000 gallons of alkaline water per day, enough to sustain the drinking water needs of a sizable village like most properties of 1000 Homes and the very prestigious Brgy Ayala subang Village, and also distributor, convenience, hospitals, hotels and schools.

Electrosteam guarantees the effectiveness of its ionizers that the company also built a machine for good treatment that does away with expensive sacrosenes dolomite and dangerous muriatic acid. Not to be mistaken with the obsolete salt chlorinator that is yucky and messy, the pool ionizer it makes it safe for your family to swim in a chemical free pool and will easily save an Olympic size pool swims as much as P600,000 a year on chemical bills. This is perfect for resorts, schools, hotels, village and homes pools and sports clubs.

For more information, call 474-2744, 380-8008, 477-5141 or log on to www.electrosteamcorp.com.

The joy of sustainable eating

IMAGE, THERE is a restaurant at the heart of the bustling Makati city that caters to the appetites of the green warriors. Le Bistro Mat (French for "The Green Bistro") is blazing a trail in the casual dining scene that makes saving money easy and secure here.

While the word organic has been thrown around as a marketing tool, the famous owners of La Bistro are known for their advocacy in the industry. "Drinking and eating sustainably means that we can about the planet. Why? Because consuming local ingredients is not just healthy choice. They don't have to travel far," says Chit Juan.

Chit Juan's name is known in the green crusade. A CEO of a successful chain of hotel cafés and its foundation for fifteen years, she stepped down to pursue her three passions – cooking, the country's ailing coffee industry, and entrepreneurship, and of course, the environment.

Healthier, wholesome, and a delectable treat for the great palate, Le Bistro Mat introduced the luncheon Current for a group of people who commit to eating locally grown, food whenever possible) dining concept to the busy boss of the urban jungle. Almost all the ingredients used are locally sourced from organic farms, making these dishes very sustainable and no natural. Plus, you are 100% sure that what you eat has no trace of harmful chemicals and pesticides that aren't good for you or the environment.

For appetizers, try the bagoong Orange, Carabao Cheese, and Tomato plate with multivegetable and basil pesto that helps the regulars coming back. The Le Bistro Mat Signature Salad makes use of poached organic eggs, local greens, homemade bacon, and more cost-effective way to treat your water. If you compare it, a gallon of water only costs 10 centavos including the electricity needed to run the machine. So much efficient and affordability of production, the operator gets triple recommended purified water similar to the world's famous Fiuire of France.

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The joy of sustainable eating

IMAGE, THERE is a restaurant at the heart of the bustling Makati city that caters to the appetites of the green warriors. Le Bistro Mat (French for "The Green Bistro") is blazing a trail in the casual dining scene that makes saving money easy and secure here.

While the word organic has been thrown around as a marketing tool, the famous owners of La Bistro are known for their advocacy in the industry. "Drinking and eating sustainably means that we can about the planet. Why? Because consuming local ingredients is not just healthy choice. They don't have to travel far," says Chit Juan.

Chit Juan's name is known in the green crusade. A CEO of a successful chain of hotel cafés and its foundation for fifteen years, she stepped down to pursue her three passions – cooking, the country's ailing coffee industry, and entrepreneurship, and of course, the environment.

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For appetizers, try the bagoong Orange, Carabao Cheese, and Tomato plate with multivegetable and basil pesto that helps the regulars coming back. The Le Bistro Mat Signature Salad makes use of poached organic eggs, local greens, homemade bacon, good cheese, and bistro vinaigrette is a best seller in the salads. To snack on, friendly, Le Bistro Mat's menu also has epic-class delights. The Chicken Mango Asparagus Roulade, Marinated chicken with Blue Cheese Butter, and the Pulanesan Cashew and Herb Crusted Sole Fillet are some of the lutantes that will not only keep you nourished, but will satisfy your epicurean's desires. Adding great personal touch to eating habits.

Le Bistro Cafes at SMA Tectonics 2 and 3, the café version of the chain, offer a quick-service gourmet menu.

The real fuel for the soul is the joy of eating to your heart's delight, knowing that you are enjoy good food at an affordable price, while helping preserve and protect the planet for future generations.

Le Bistro Mat is open Mondays to Thursdays 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 a.m., and is located at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Salcedo Village, Makati. Le Bistro Cafes are located at the 5th and 6th floors International Airport (SMA) Terminals 2 and 3 arrival areas. Visit www.lebistro.ph or follow them at Twitter.com/lebistro1 or at Facebook. La Bistro Mat/ le bistro sustainable cafe(s) for more information.

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'Balik PSTD', Gawad Maestro, National Convention, etc.

APRIL 12, 2011 MAKE A NIGHT OF REDS. Lovely at the Society Lounge in Makati for the Philippine Society for Training & Development (PSTD) members, guests and friends. It was also a night of goodbye for this year's Board of Trustees as they unveiled the 1st PSTD Workplace Learning and Performance (WLP) Awardee and the Balik Maestro Award – their version of the Oscar. For the learning professionals from various industries who attended, passion was rekindled, camaraderie and pickup lines sparked and excitement was ignited for the coming Annual PSTD Convention at Subic City on May 17-19, 2011. According to Ms Marie Collantes, Chair of the PSTD Professional Development Committee and the most organizer of this event, "It was our desire to make our past members come back to their roots, the PSTD. It was meant to showcase what PSTD can offer as an organization to the best of WLP and no-engage there since again."

It is for this reason why past event organized by the society was made more memorable by the engaging program prepared and hosted by the PSTD learning team led by Mr. Nonong Barrogo, who also serenaded the audience with classical songs. Mr. Pido Aguilar, a PSTD officer, also shared and taught the audience the PSTD's 5-minute energizing that they can use. He also spearheaded the launching of the seven PSTD books that members can join. Ms Malou also announced the various chapters that will be given by the PSTD Boards Committee and invited everyone to nominate outstanding learning professionals worthy of the Gawad Maestro Award. It replaced the Masters' name was also unveiled. The Election Committee led by Ms. Evelyn Esguerra also announced the election guidelines for the new set of officers.

Inspirations poured out from the talk of PSTD President Mr. Jesse Fernandez when he thanked everyone for being proactive by demonstrated the activity and for taking personal leadership for their personal growth and development.

The guidelines and mechanics for the Gawad Maestro award will again be presented to the delegates during the fellowship night of the 2011 PSTD National Convention on May 17-19, 2011 at the Agio View Hotel in Subic City. For more details about this awards and the convention, please contact the PSTD secretariat at 750-[illegible] or visit www.pstd.org.

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Marcelo N. Fernando

June 16, 1929 – May 14, 2011

Former General Counsel of Manila Electric Company
Former Undersecretary of Finance
Former Chairman of Energy Regulatory Board

His family, **Gilda Cordero Fernando**, wife of 58 years; his children: Teodoro "Bey" C. Fernando (†) and Lanelle Abasco; Manolo "Mel" C. Fernando and Dr. Lilli Ann Dim; Arch. Patricia "Wendy" Fernando Regalado and Eng. Ramiro "Rey" Regalado; Marcelo "Arcie" C. Fernando Jr. and Atty. Ernestina "Bing-Bing" Villareal; his grandchildren Majalya and Celina Abasco Fernando; Juanico and Miguel Dim Fernando; Franco, Iñigo and Carlo Fernando Regalado; Marcelo III "Quinito" and Rafael Villareal Fernando request a few minutes of silent prayer or meditation to help the soul's ascent.

After cremation, the wake will follow at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine beginning in the evening of Sunday, May 15, 2011 until Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Final Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espina

'Being biggest low-cost airline not a priority'

By Eric Cabanungan Jr.

SINCE AIRPHIL Express took to the runway anew a little over a year ago with its new logo, new fleet, and new and eclectic management crew, the airline has already soared to corner nearly a quarter of all domestic air travelers.

Propelled by a new and noble goal, Anghel Yspena or APX, owned by Philippine Airlines, has positioned itself as an airline offering not just competitively low fares but also another vehicle for thrill-seeking travelers to explore more of the Philippines and try the many adventures each destination handsomely offers.

When the new management team came in August 2016, Alfredo Herrera, APX senior vice-president for marketing and sales, and formerly with Gatorade the sports drink, immediately set out a message to his team encouraging everyone to change the mind set in promoting the airline.

"Numbers are a good motivation but promoting the beauty of the various destinations in the country can be a much more effective tool to pushing people to fly and travel," says Herrera. "We have so many great destinations that have yet to be explored by many Filipinos. If we could just highlight what Cebu has to offer to those Amboyanons, they will be more excited to fly and fly more frequently."

While many already enjoy the low fares that local airlines have been offering, APX intends not just to be an alternative but a better, wiser choice.

"With APX in the picture, we are sure to make the playing field more dynamic and advantageous for the flying public," adds Herrera.

APX is now ranked as the third largest carrier in the country after only 11 months since its relaunch. A significant feat considering that APX only has six new Airbuses and a fleet of eight turbo props, as against its major competitor Cebu Pacific's fleet of 30 aircraft.

Still, APX continues to make inroads in the budget market with its aggressive sales and marketing programs targeted at the young generation. "We seem to have found a niche among the youthful crowd who are always on the hunt for great deals," says Herrera.

But Herrera adds that being the biggest low cost airline was not the priority. "What I want to strive to be the best and we are trying our hardest to be just that," says Herrera pointing out that quality service bears quantity in its natural direction.

APX certainly is trying. Early in this year, APX launched its Facebook and Twitter accounts to official customer service channels, answering inquiries and other concerns in a consistent and organized manner. This allows more people in social media to be equipped with useful information not just about the airlines but the various destinations they go to. But the low cost and reliable modus operandi however are not only APX's current advantage over the competition.

With some budget carriers already charging for check-in baggage and other add-ons, adopting stripped-down services is not an option. APX maintains some of the perks associated with traditional airlines such as the free 15-kilo check in baggage allowance, 7-kilo handcarry baggage allowance, unlimited rebooking

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Spanish cultural-grants program now open for applications

By Angelica Zamarra
Contributor

NOW ON its 13th year, Toward a Common Future, the grants' program for the Philippines and former Spanish territories in the Pacific, was launched recently at Instituto Cervantes de Manila.

In a press conference, Jose Rodriguez, Instituto Cervantes de Manila director and Spanish Program for Cultural Cooperation (SPCC) general coordinator, stressed the importance of establishing the "strong cultural link" between Spain and the Philippines and Pacific island nations. Rodriguez, Spanish Institute Gloom, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the Federal States of Micronesia).

"The aim of the program is to focus on two things—heritage and the positive things that bind us," he said.

Rodriguez said he had just gone to Zamboanga City to check a cultural center being proposed for the grants' program. He said one of his goals was to "bring the cultural program out of Manila and to the countryside."

The financial support program caters to universities doing researches on the humanities and social sciences, which study the shared heritage of Spain and the Philippines and other Pacific countries.

"The program is practically open to everybody," said Rodriguez. "The only thing we are looking for, in these things, is the connection to the Spanish heritage. The only requirement is an endorsement letter from a university."

A 14-man committee of academicians and cultural experts, including Rodriguez, will assess the proposals submitted.

GRANADO, C2

INSTITUTO Cervantes director and SPCC general coordinator José Rodríguez

Bicol holds Sarung Banggi festival

BICOL IS perhaps the only region in the country which can lay claim to having a regional folk song which captures the character and appreciation of its people. "Sarung Banggi" is Bicol's signature love ballad, and arguably one of the country's most popular and well-loved folk songs.

Composed by noted musician Feliciano Gregorio of Libog town (now Sto. Domingo) in Albay, the song, which literally means "one night," tells about an enchanted evening encounter between a lovesick man and a lovely provincial lass.

The song, composed on May 30, 1918, was arranged for band by Gregorio in 1934 and performed by Banda de Libog, the municipal town band. Because of its growing popularity, the composer arranged it for symphony orchestra in 1936.

Along with his brother Bernardo, Gregorio created 12 compositions. He joined the famed Philippine Constabulary Band under Col. Walter Loving and was named its representative to the San Francisco World Expo in 1939. He died of pneumonia en route to the event.

This 6th annual tradition will be memorialized as the municipality of Sto. Domingo holds the Sarung Banggi festival in celebration of Gregorio's 113th birthday and the song's 111th composition anniversary.

Sto. Domingo Mayor Herbie Agnes said the festivity would showcase Gregorio's musical legacy, the town's gift of music, as well as its natural wonders.

He said Sto. Domingo was also known for its picturesque Church of St. Dominic,

BICOL C2

Bicol holds Sarung Banggi festival

From page C1

(CLOCKWISE, from above, left) Sto. Domingo Plateros; Sto. Domingo plaza and town hall; "Sarung Banggi" weave; Sto. Domingo Church

first used beaches, river weaves, natural springs, and the majestic perfect cone of Mayon Volcano.

The hotel is also Gregorio's birthplace, with a museum housing his family and historical memorabilia.

Here on its ninth edition, the event will have as its highlight "Tribute to Lolo Rolen," a musical presentation hosted by the Gregorio clan on May 21, Rolendario's birth anniversary.

Other activities include Sto. Domingo Cul Talent Storytelling Regalia, "Banggi ako: Sayagugud" Concert for a Cause by the Parish Youth Ministry; Grand Blue Ball Fireworks; and Search for Festival Queen.

There will also be a singing contest and a street dance presentation, where participants will perform to the modern version of "Sarung Banggi."

Situated 12 km from Legazpi City, Sto. Domingo is regarded as the "sweet capital" of Albay because of its long coastline and numerous spring resorts.

For details, call Sto. Domingo Mayor's Office at (052) 4335733 or (0928) 6017330.

Spanish cultural ...

From page C1

"The objective of the program is to preserve and to dig up the common heritage that we have—the Philippines, Spain and the Pacific islands," Rodriguez said.

The program started in 2007 and officially launched in 2008 through lectures-Conversión de Manila by the Ministry of Culture of Spain and the Philippine universities.

To date, IPCC has given out 2218 grants, mainly to Philippine researchers and cultural workers. Grants awarded, as listed on the IPCC website, include "Instruction Publica: The Basis of Public Education in the Philippines, 1863-1898" (2010), by Glen L. Dizon of Tarlac State University; "Archeological Investigation of Spanish Basi-sitios (The Combat Area of Mactan) Period, Mandaue" (2009), by Lee Anthony Bacud of UP Diliman; "Frederico Garcia Lorca Recital" (2008), by Amelito Pelaez of St. Stallion Academy; and "In Quest of an Timeless Monuments of the Preachers (Architectural Identity of Dominican Churches)" (2008), by Norma Alarcon of University of Santo Tomas.

Deadline for application is May 15. Application forms are available for download at www.ipcc.ph.

To learn more about the 2012 Grant Duration visit their office or Instituto Cervantes at 6th Floor Rufino St., Ayala, Manila 1000. You can also e-mail them at ipcc@cervantes.com.ph, or call 3281982 local 119.

Sansó landscapes of Bellarocca on show at Tower Club

THE WORKS of international-ly renowned Arrieval Sansó have been recognized not only for their contribution to the world art scene, but for the simple but brilliant vision of a truly exceptional artist.

Painting for over half a century, Sansó continues to create a remarkable tableau of images, landscapes and abstract works known for their outstanding technique, incomparable concepts and visionary bent.

Always in search of new places to explore his distinguished grasp of landscape painting, Sansó has found the beautiful island-resort of Bellarocca Island Resort and Spa (www.bellarocca-artist.com) a charming and captivating place to inspire a series of works. The seaside cliffs, hills, the majestic Mount Hubinsky and the tranquil waters gave Sansó a wonderful new milieu to create his works.

To celebrate this astonishing artist, Tower Club, Galleria Studio and Bellarocca Island Resort and Spa, in partnership with Allied Bank/PNB Credit Cards and Contemporary Art Philippines, will be hosting a one-of-a-kind exhibition of 30 of Sansó's works inspired by the beautiful cuisine of Mediterranean and Bellarocca, May 19-June 2, titled "Sansó: Scenes from the Beautiful South," at Tower Club, 10/F, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The vistas Sansó has created contain his characteristic abstractions and bright, vivid palette, the overriding senses of form and grasp of landscape primordial in terms of depth and scale. Each work readily captures not only the primary aesthetic of the sea-coast and the landscape, but also its emotional timbre.

Sansó's works are already represented in the collections of some 40 museums in the world, such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Civic Francisco Museum.

His collectors include the Rockefeller Family, Nelson Rockefeller, Vincent Price, Elsa Schiaparelli, Jean Cocteau and many prominent Americans, European and Hispano-families.

Allied Bank and PNB Credit Cards (http://cards.alliedbank.com.ph), through their Lifestyles Program, allow purchasing a Sansó work on interest-free terms.

Each purchase made on May 19 entitles the collector a chance to participate in a raffle for a three-day/two-night stay at Bellarocca.

Call Galleria Studio, (02) 7289128. Visit www.galleriastudio.com.

"CALMNESS in Distance"

PAUL Bettany stars in "Priest."

'Priest'–from graphic novel to screen

A BRUTALHARDENED supa warrior embarks on a perilous quest to save his niece from a murderous pack of vampires in Columbia Pictures' "Priest," a post-apocalyptic action horror film based on Takeshy's popular graphic novel series written by Min-Woo Hyung.

"Priest" is set in an alternate world—one ravaged by centuries of war between man and vampires. The story revolves around a legendary Warrior Priest (Paul Bettany) from the last Human War, who now lives in obscurity among the other downtrodden human inhabitants as exiled in dystopian cities ruled by the Church.

When his niece (Lily Collins) is abducted by a murderous pack of vampires, Priest breaks his sacred vows to venture out on an obsessive quest to find her before they turn her into one of them. He is joined on his crusade by his niece's boyfriend (Cam Gigandet), a dapper-but-gutsy young sheriff, and a former Warrior Priestess (Maggie Q), who possesses otherworldly fighting skills.

Writer Cory Goodman's script has "Priest" is wrestling with the worlds of contemporary graphic novels and classic genre films. Set in a post-apocalyptic wasteland, it combines gothic horror and modern dramatization with "guns by" fighting as cyborg a world both intensely futuristic and wholly original.

The inspiration for the story comes from Korean-born artist writer Min-Woo Hyung's critically acclaimed 26-volume manhwa series, also titled "Priest," published in the United States by leading graphic novel publisher Tokyopop.

"Priest" is a combination of western and Asian comics style," says Stuart Levy, Tokyopop's publisher and one of the film's producers. "Because Min-Woo Hyung is extremely interested in film, his work tends to be very cinematic."

Before he ever got involved in the film, director Scott Stewart ("Legion") was thrilled with the Tokyopop graphic novel and had several Goodman scripts.

"I had been a fan of the script for a while," Stewart says. "Cory created a mythology that was really interesting, along with compelling characters. I focused on giving the story a stronger emotional through line and focusing it thematically."

Stewart began by emphasizing the action-thriller-monstrous aspects of the story.

"It occurred to me was that this was a story about sacrifice, and especially about soldiers who go off to fight a war they believe is a noble cause but come back disenfranchised," he says. "Society has moved on without them. Instead of coming back as heroes, they are social pariahs. And that's what happens to the priests."

He saw a strong post-Vietnam analogy to this backstory. "The priests turned the tide for humanity. They sacrificed their families and their individuality. They don't even have names anymore. A generation after they've returned, the world doesn't look so wonderful. Is this all they fought for? That sacrifice becomes a primary theme for me."

Before production began, the filmmakers asked for the blessing of the graphic novel's creator, Min-Woo Hyung. He traveled from Korea to Hollywood to meet with the cast and show the concept art. "We were all anxious to see his first reaction," says Levy. "Min-Woo is a really serious and intense guy. He looked at all the concepts art and understood immediately."

"Priest" is now showing. Visit www.sonypictures.com.ph. Also check out www.facebook.com/ColumbiaPictures.PH/and join fan contests.

Lorca dream play to be staged

By Walter Ang
Correspondent

"WE DON'T make plays, we create experiences" is Sipat Lawin Ensemble's tagline for its 2011 lineup. The group discussed concept of upcoming productions on the launch of their season.

The launch, held at Puerta del Sol, Lucia in Intramuros, began with Silo Jef Hitch's "Nois Me Tanayere", giving back to 150 babies while fusing fun, figurative Dimech.

Ateliers members were given marks, made to make animal noises, rushed to interact and dance with SLE actors, and were even instructed to "kill" each other by sneakily sticking their tongues out at their "victims."

"Dramatic first people" dined on the floor that night," said artistic director JK Ramirez.

Interactive activities were meant to showcase the group's brand of theatre-making.

"SLE operates on themes of intervention. Enter action. Interaction," he said.

This month, SLE will stage "Hiligaya ng Lihang Hoot," Rudy Fess's Tagalog translation of Federico García Lorca's "Where Five Years Pass."

Tanya Holagaya will direct this play which "tells the story of a young Man who will finally marry his fiancée after making five years. However, when five years pass, his fiancée is no longer the same person he once knew."

"This central narrative is disrupted by fantastic interludes. A friend sings about the women who live in raindrops. A ghostly Boy and a slinky Girl discuss death. A Harlequin and a Clown sing of love. A Mannequin in a wedding dress mourns the son she'll never have if the Young Man never marries," said Anicoche.

Animals and lovers

In July the group will restage their devised four-actor "hijacker" homage/ "adaptation" of George Orwell's "Animal Farm"I directed by Anicoche, with production design by Dini Sabellano. The production is usually staged in public areas that have a fountain.

The group's "spinoff" comedy version of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" is set to tour basketball courts in different barangays in August. SLE will conduct workshops in barangays and incorporate local talents (acting and backstage, including set, costume, props design) for unique performances.

The production is an evolution of a devised adaptation (in editing) initiated by Dulang Sipat Lawin, the resident theater group of Philippine High School for the Arts. It's also been restaged by Tanghalang Pilipino.

The previous version was titled "Romeo Love Drew"Hoot" and used Jalogs language interspersed with Pinkicool Artist for Theater Rolando Tinio's Filipino translation.

"We're working with playwright Layeta Hocoy and we've updated the title to 'eDanSeN GIVE jaLi,' to reflect our search of the spontaneous-led language of this generation after the first decade of the 21st century," said Anicoche. "Aside from Jojo more,' we'll also use Hiligaya, a form of rap battle done in the streets."

Future

In November, SLE will stage the musical "Mischief" by Autaran Ildito, to be directed by Hidagoin. The musical is about two groups of superheroes, one of which is completed by a demonic Monster of Humanity who plans on enslaving Filipinos with an epidemic of Kalmaderan.

"Those opposing teams battle for the future of the Philippines," said Inniember.

"Mischief" was first staged in 1989 in which the defunct band Basebooth first performed their hit song "Kalbal."

In January 2012, SLE is set to stage "Sinkhole Pearl," based on the Japanese cult movie "Sunlit Slayde" in which a group of residents is forced to exterminate each other in a dystopian future.

"In the movie, 42 students are placed on an island with the instruction that after three days there should only be one survivor," said Anicoche. "In our version, we will have 12 chaos involving 12 seniority theater companies and one playground in the old prison cells of Intramuros."

Year-round

Available for booking by schools, offices and organizations is SLE's touring comedy-musical "Progrez," based on the short story "Progrez" by Nemuel Arnie for Literature 7 (Intellect).

Set during martial law, "Progrez" is "a satire on lazy government employees and government bureaucracy as we follow the travails of Marina, a provincial senior clerk who goes to Manila to seek the endorsement of her promotion. As she maneuvers our bureaucratic labyrinth and is preyed upon by one other actor), she discovers its incompetence and corruption."

SLE says has season passes that start from P500. Depending on the category passes can provide discounts for additional tickets, free drinks at certain shows, and even the opportunity to have dinner with the ensemble during one of their rehearsals.

"Hiligaya ng Lihang Hoot" runs May 12-22. For venue and other details, call (632) 5868733 or 09228546469.

Pasamba, Predis and symphonic band featured in Filfest in Alabang

THE FILFEST Cultural Foundation will convene "Sounds & All-themed" May 21, 6 p.m., at Insular Life Corporate Center Auditorium in Alabang with a concert featuring cellist Wilfredo Pasamba, Perlas Chamber Orchestra, and Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB), under the baton of Jeffrey Solares.

Hailed by The New York Times for his "audacity and brilliance," Pasamba has appeared with the Juilliard Symphony, Bruno Ramfort Orchestra, Wilfredo Symphony, Spirituo Chamber Orchestra, the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB), under the baton of Jeffrey Solares.

WILLIE Pasamba

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He has collaborated with musicians/conductors Piero Guerra, Pamela Gerhardt, Emilio Manalo, Sriner Molina, Sidney Olson, Michael Peters, Imagine Barcheski and Nino Rodriguez.

Pasamba garnered top honors at Jennings Buren-Bold Young Artist Competition, 2nd Gold Cello Concerto Competition, the Grand Music Competition for Young Artists, Bravo Chamber Orchestra Competition. He was a semifinalist to the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

JEFFREY Solares

The Philippine Stewards for Developing Instrumental Soloists (Predis) was founded in 1995 by Emilio Miranda and Sr. Mary-Hazel Abejo, DSB. Its purpose is to develop talented Filipinos to become professional musicians and supply Philippine orchestras with highly qualified and competent instrumentalists.

PYSB was organized in 1978 to nurture the symphonic band tradition as a pillar of the country's national musical heritage. Today it is a versatile ensemble of 64 young, dedicated, talented and skilled musicians, for members range from 8 to 24 years old. It recently finished cutting its second music album.

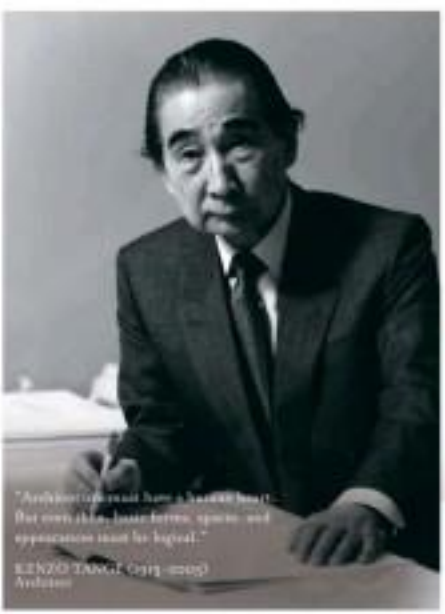
Solares is a product of Predis and finished his Bachelor of Music degree at St. Scholastica's College of Music. He is associate conductor of Manila Symphony Orchestra and UST Symphony Orchestra.

The concert program on May 21 includes "Dark Of Symphonic Poem" by composer Bartolomeo, Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto in A Minor, and Symphony No. 40 in G Minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Air tickets, call 5850823 or 09178137262.

Storeys for a few.

A year after breaking ground, a look at the people behind Discovery Primea.



When the late Japanese architect and urban planner Kenzo Tange was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1987, the Pritzker jury in its citation referred to the stadium Tange designed for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics as one of the most beautiful structures built in the twentieth century.

The architect who gave expression in Japan's vision of its future after World War II, however, often emphasized the need to go beyond artistic creativity. "Architecture must have a human heart," he said. "But even then, basic forms, spaces, and appearances must be logical." This balance between beauty and logic, grandeur and human warmth, was a philosophy carefully applied to the design of Discovery Primea.

Paul Tange, son of the late Kenzo Tange

Discovery Primea stands to become an architectural landmark in the city. Paul Tange, son of the late legendary architect who joined his father's practice after earning his Master's Degree in architecture from Harvard University in 1981, points out that the design of the building "connects the urban environment and human life. It considers the balance between the architectural presence of the building in the urban scale and comfortable living spaces in the human scale. Design without balance of scale and space cannot be called a masterpiece." The younger Tange now heads the prominent architectural firm Tange Associates.

Paul Tange sees a distinct advantage in the decade it took for Discovery Primea to achieve its current refined design. "Architects never stop thinking about design. It is a continuing process until the right moment, and there is a sense of satisfaction. We believe our design will live through time..."

DISCOVERY PRIMEA

Another first: Globe's customizable family unli plan

Families can now enjoy the benefits of the most flexible, personalized and customizable postpaid plan available in the market today.

Introducing Globe My Super Circle Plan, the first and only unlimited and customizable group plan from Globe Telecom which includes 3 Globe postpaid lines, 3 unlimited services and 3 mobile phones all under one plan. Available for only P1,499 or almost P500 per postpaid line, Globe My Super Circle Plan allows subscribers to create a group plan with 2 other family members and personalize it by choosing an add-on per account.

Each member can choose from MySuperUNLI, MySuperDUO or MySuperTXTALL as their plan address that can be changed monthly.

MySuperUNLI allows subscribers to do unlimited texting and calling to Globe/TM, MySuperDUO lets users to make unlimited calls to Globe/TM/GOOMYSUPERDUO and Globe Landline numbers, while MySuperTXTALL enables subscribers to send unlimited texts to all networks, whether Globe, TM, Smart, Sun or Talk 'n Text. Under Globe My Super Circle Plan, subscribers can avail of an unlimited service for only P499, a P100 straight out discount from its original price of P599.

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"Globe is once again at the forefront of innovation with our latest postpaid plan for families. With Globe My Super Circle Plan, our subscribers can take advantage of our postpaid bill for 3 postpaid accounts. This is an exciting offer that is convenient, relevant and affordable for consumers today who want to be connected with each other all the time," said Martha Sazon, Head of Globe Postpaid.

Sazon added, "Offering Globe My Super Circle Plan is in line with our relentless efforts to provide our customers with customized and personalized experiences, empowering them in easy to learn within their respective circles – whether through sending unlimited text messages or making unlimited calls."

Globe remains the leader in the mobile postpaid segment with more than 1 million active subscribers and P15.7-billion in revenues as of end-2010. With a 25% year-on-year subscriber growth, Globe Postpaid registered a record-high acquisition rate with full year net subscriber additions of about 215,000 new customers.

Globe My Super Circle Plan is available in all Globe stores nationwide starting May 6, 2011. To know more about the Globe My Super Circle Plan, visit the nearest Globe store or log on to www.globe.com.ph.

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If you're a parent, you'll breathe a sigh of relief knowing that you can always reach your kids and know they are safe. Keeping track of monthly household spending will be a snap with a single postpaid bill for all three lines and no more need to constantly share load. As for your kids, knowing Mom and Dad are just a phone call away will surely keep their feeling secure. And with their choice of unlimited services and gadgets, they'll also be connected to their best pals all summer long.

Martha Sazon, Head of Globe Postpaid, explains: "My Super Circle Plan is a first of its kind. Its only fully customizable group plan that's perfect for families who want to stay in touch around the clock. With 3x more of unlimited services and your choice of gadgets, you can get your whole family Globe-connected, and you can pick and choose the things that you like best so that every member of the family can get something they love!"

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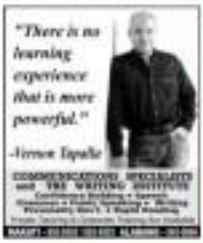
LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Urian Best Picture nominees show emergent regional cinema



By Lito B. Zulueta

THE GROWING regionalization of Philippine independent cinema is very evident in the Best Picture nominees of the 34th Gawad Urian, the film critics' prize for excellence in filmmaking, which will be handed out tomorrow at Marriott Hotel.

Most of the Best Picture nominees are productions from filmmakers based in the regions. They also tackle issues that are germane to the regions.

"Ang Damgo ni Eleuterio" (Cinedive Proguns, Inc., Pamamahayan, Bicutan) is set on Olango Island off Mactan in Cebu province. Directed by Giovanni Shenton Boga Zuñeta, the movie documents the fantasies of a Filipino Elle Woods (in the title) as she prepares to leave her island hometown to get married in Germany.

Stylistically audacious, it unfolds in one single sweeping shot, the time an actual locally filmed, impressing the viewer with its fetishistic unfolding of a small life that embodies the Filipino diaspora.

"Ebanghe" won the Jury Prize at last year's Cinema One Originals festival.

Another Best Picture contender is "Halom" (Leo Pelicolas Cinema Studio) by Mindanao filmmaker Sheron N. Dayoc. The Cinemalaya Grand Prize winner last year, it is a burdened-by-film about Filipinos crossing the Malaysian border in Sabah. Dayoc captures the difficult journey through rich textural shots that grip and attract the viewer.

Under assault

Another 2010 Cinemalaya finalist is in the running for Best Picture in the Urian. Directed by Ferdinand Lapuz Lapuz, the film "Liwanag" (Kodakk Home Productions) documents a young Magindanaon girl's coming of age.

Betrothed to a man she hardly knows, she undertakes the elaborate perceptual ritual of cleansing and preparation. Although eager to please her elders and continue their tradition, her fidelity to her people and culture comes under quiet assault as she struggles with her feelings for a soldier.

"Sheika" (Rydellen Entertainment, Skywaves Productions, Alchemy of Vision and Light TV and 9 Ola Productions), directed by another Mindanao-based filmmaker, Arnel Barbarona, is a riveting story of a woman in search of power in war-ravaged Mindanao.

Jhiphil Bienvenido Sanchez, the director of "Tandoy" (Cinema Filipina Inc., Lanjenggala Collective), is not a regional filmmaker. But "Tandoy" is loosely based on an incident involving a 10-year-old Tausug boy who was used by the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers to charge the cell phones they used in their hostage negotiations.

Dominican Gutierrez's "Hari" (Cinemalaya Filma Inc., PIP Access Media Productions, Star Cinema, MSI-CBN Film Productions) takes the viewer across the Philippines as its hero, posing as a journalist, covers the vivid political hamstringing of Noynoy Aquino during the 2010 presidential campaign. The result is a rendering of private agony and public struggle.

Urban drama

Other Best Picture nominees are gritty urban dramas that are very rooted in their social environment.

"Ang Manobo sa Finalsoon ng Isla" (Independiente) Prochazka) tells the story of two employees who make a living as child divers in fishing trawlers. Director Mes de Guzman, who won the Urian Best Director in 2005 for "Ang Daang Patungong Kalimugmog," shows once again a mastery of narrative.

UNAVAILABLE

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY ED ABERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH_LOGOS

DICK TRACY

LOVE & NUTS BY ELIZABETH MCCRORIELD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE BY MARK ABERA

SEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAU BORN TODAY You're ambitious and practical and you have the determination to achieve anything, whether it's material gain or spiritual growth. You're considered to be stubborn, intense and jealous, but underneath you're also sensitive, romantic and a gentle listener. Your birthday astrologically links you to Jupiter, the planet of luck and expansion, and Saturn, the planet of discipline and responsibility. Famous Taurus people include Elizabeth Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, actor Jim Parsons and Princess Diana.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's easy to feel insecurity and disharmony with people today. Don't let others push you around, but don't push them around either. Be considerate and enjoy your company.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Criticism or boastful comments may anger you but be cautious about how you react. You need a breather. Your star versus Mars this month is going to be extra powerful — use it wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might talk to someone today about changing your job or a business opportunity. Don't rush to a hasty decision or help others to make one. You can't do what this year has to bring.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Check out important places and people with whom you have worked today. Don't withdraw or romance with someone who makes you feel good. Don't be afraid to show your love.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Expect others' opinions and things to change. You're going to be able to get away from the pressures of work and enjoy yourself. Don't be afraid to show your enthusiasm. Sex, love and romance also are beautiful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You will benefit from the wealth and security of others today, including perhaps your partner. Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Romance is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your closest relationships and partnerships are really important now because you are changing and evolving. Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Sex, love and romance are beautiful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Work with others and your own ideas. Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Sex, love and romance are beautiful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Vacations, love affairs, the arts, show business, the entertainment world and sports and hobbies all represent opportunities for you in the coming month. Kick up your heels and have fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Pause to reassess or make new plans for where you live and go very carefully today. You can gain knowledge from your travels, education or writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Many of you can make money through writing, talking, selling, acting or promoting in the next month. Have communications skills and be educated!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Trust your neighbouring ideas. Consulting or chatting to some together very closely. Don't be afraid to show your feelings. Sex, love and romance are beautiful things as well.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	5	6	4	2	7	1	8
4	1	6	8	7	9	5	3	2
8	7	2	1	5	3	6	4	9
2	8	1	5	3	7	4	9	6
6	4	3	9	2	8	1	5	7
5	9	7	4	6	1	8	2	3
3	2	8	7	9	5	1	6	4
1	6	4	2	8	4	9	7	5
7	5	9	3	1	6	2	8	1

Concepts Sudoku By Dave Green

		7		2		3		
	1						6	
8			4	3	5			1
		1	2		3	6		
6		4				2		5
		5	7		4	8		
3			6	1	7			4
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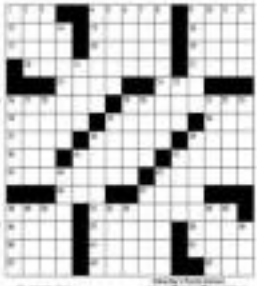
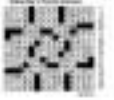
		6		8		7		

Difficulty Level ●

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Urian best picture nominees . . .

Back page B1

and handling of child actors.

"Chavit" (Happy Gilmore Productions) by the very prolific Adolfo Alix Jr. is an interesting black and white movie about a mother trying to raise a child amid the cracks and holes of a busy dockyard. It is distinguished by a powerful performance by Joel Saracho.

Perhaps the regionalization trend is reflected paradoxically by "Sangre" (Seacrest Communications Films). Written, produced and directed by legendary American indie filmmaker John Sayles, "Sangre" is a highly entertaining and very provocative account of the Philippine-American War as the hero's of the 20th century.

Its dialogue is polyglot—in English, Tagalog, Spanish, Chinese and Latin. In fact, the Tagalog dialogue is translated from the original English script of Sayles by Filipino poet-professor-critic Jerry Gracio, actress Joel "Pen" Lacuesta, who will receive this year the Natatanging Gawad Urian for Lifetime achievement in film. An American and Filipino co-production, "Sangre" points the way to the melding of world, national and local cinemas. It is a striking sign of great things to come for Philippine cinema.

Respected critics

The 34th Gawad Urian, presented by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino (MPP), the society of respected film critics, will be on May 17, 6 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of Marriott Hotel Manila, Newport Boulevard, Newport City Complex, Pasay City.

Co-presenters of Gawad Urian are Cinema One and the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

The MPP is chaired by Rolando Tolentino, dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications.

Members are National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera; former Cultural Center of the Philippines artistic director and Movie and Television Review and Classification Board chair Nestor Torre; Malaya editor and MTRCB member Music Herman; UP Open University theorist Joi Barrios; Ateneo de Manila humanities professor Rolando Tolentino; Philippine Star columnist Butch Francisco; De la Salle University professor Nikki Baptista; Ateneo professors Rosalie Santos and Tito Valiente; and Philippine Daily Inquirer editor and UST professor Lito Zulueta.

Visit www.manunuri.com

HILO Tolentino's typhoon "P"

Gawad Urian nominees for short film, documentary

Best Short Film:

- Joy Bernardette A. Asuncion, "Mitra"
- Zoren Olan, "Boca"
- Gabby Fernandez, "Mano"
- Poch Gonzalez, "Kontrata"
- Jeffrey Francis Linares, "Ang Sandali ng Sarili Sang Lino at Isa"
- Marice Magbanua, Jr., "Pandoro"
- Carlo Francisco Manatad, "Hanggang"
- Piero Bilbao, "Ang Kang Tangan"
- Simpy Toria, "Sinipsip Ka"
- Torsten Sioga Tuason, "Ang Kahapon kang Bagking"
- Tammod "Mike" Tolentino, "P"

Best Documentary:

- Joanna Vasquez Arong, "Sunday School"
- Malaya Campomanes, "Ang Panagbagto sa Abong Mga Apohan"
- Gerardo Ilo, "Eskwatation"
- Mariano Jimenez, "Kano: An American and His Dream"
- Hay Arthurs, "Sakuyo: I'm Migrant"

NATATANGING GAWAD PARA SA LACABA

Writer Joni "Pen" Lacuesta, who wrote the "Jaguar," "Kapag Kay Rapi sa Paalon" and "Dos pero Isoso," will receive the 2011 Natatanging Gawad for Lifetime Achievement in Cinema.

List of 2011 nominees

BEST FILM: "Sangre" (Asian Vision Cooperative Films); "Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin" (Creative Programs, Inc., Pamulaklakan Pictures); "Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Wild" (Gampaylabel Productions); "Chavit" (Happy Gilmore Productions); "Hubad" (Los Peliculadatorres Studio); "Limbunan" (Bahadi); Pusao Productions); "Pusit" (Cinemalaya Films, Inc., VIP Access Media Productions, Star Cinema, ABS-CBN Film Productions); "Shelka" (Skyventure Productions/Solstice Entertainment, Alchemy of Vision and Light TV and Film Productions); "Tuwa Kami" (Cinefilipino Productions, Inc., Lauyongpalo Collective)

Best Director: Adolfo B. Alix, Jr. ("Chavit"); Sigfrid Marte Jauhen ("Shandyer"); Sherwin B. Bayot ("Hubad"); Mes de Guzman ("Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Wild"); Mes de Guzman ("Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Wild"); Rhein de la Cruz ("Mapula sa Mga Pangil ng Uhling"); Rubio Pardig and Ekenel Anthony Sanchez ("Sinlangan"); Guiherm Mangamohan II ("Limbunan"); Senilbelt Kuizon ("Shelka"); Dondon Santos ("Pusit"); John Sayles ("Sangre"); Ronnie Sioga Custodio ("Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin")

Best Screenplay: Adolfo B. Alix, Jr. ("Chavit"); Adolfo B. Alix, Jr. and Aguen D de Guzman ("Pusao"); Sigfrid Marte Jauhen ("Shandyer"); Sherwin B. Bayot ("Hubad"); Mes De Guzman ("Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Wild"); Mes De Guzman ("Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Wild"); Rhein De la Cruz and Carl Javier ("Mapula sa Mga Pangil ng Uhling"); Guiherm Mangamohan II ("Limbunan"); Arnel Mardoquio ("Shelka"); Shugo Praise ("May"); Ronnie Sioga Custodio ("Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin")

Best Actor: Aiden Arcilla (Tiktak); Barry Direct (Shelka); Ronnie Lazaro (Ishmael); Sid Lucero (Mid); Coco Martin (Boy); Pen Medina (Lapang Bilanggo); Sam Milby (Third World Happy); Paolo Serrano (Tatlong); Joel Torre (Sangre)

Best Actress: Bea Arilla (Magdalena); Sheenlee Gabral (Esperan); Bonna Isadora Cabrera (Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin); Lauren Godfrey (Karwa); Fe GingGing Hyde (Shelka); Gee Quezada (Magkakapatid); Judi Sta. Maria (Chandra); Sheryl Sorano (Tuwa)

Best Supporting Actor: Jonathan Dew; Tirso Cruz III (Sigaw); Mano Debo Santos (Shandyer); Jake Ona (Magkakapatid); Gene Dilabout (Sangre); Gage Dumagat (MAG-Kinder Sakuniyan); Raymond Gregg Torres (Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin); Nil Marpan (Sangre)

Best Supporting Actress: Lou Jessica (Ang Damgo ni Sheerwin); Anne Linda Dwenet; Ala Garcia (Sangre); Mona Isabel Lopez (Hubad); Lisa

Everyone is excited to shop for school.

Summer vacation is about to end and everyone knows that means it's time to get ready, hit the malls, and shop for school!

Get all the school supplies you need at 0% interest with HSBC Installment Plan when you shop at any SM Department Store. On top of that, you enjoy exclusive payment terms of up to 4 months! Notebooks, a new set of school uniform, and a fancy lunch box are just the beginning of a long shopping list of back-to-school treats, but the list does not end there.

Reward yourself after shopping and use the transaction slip of your installment purchases to enjoy your favorite treats from SM Department Store, SM Group of affiliates, Starbucks, Caltex, Cathay Pacific, Cebu Pacific, and a variety of shopping and pampering merchants. With HSBC, both moms and kids can't wait to go back to school.

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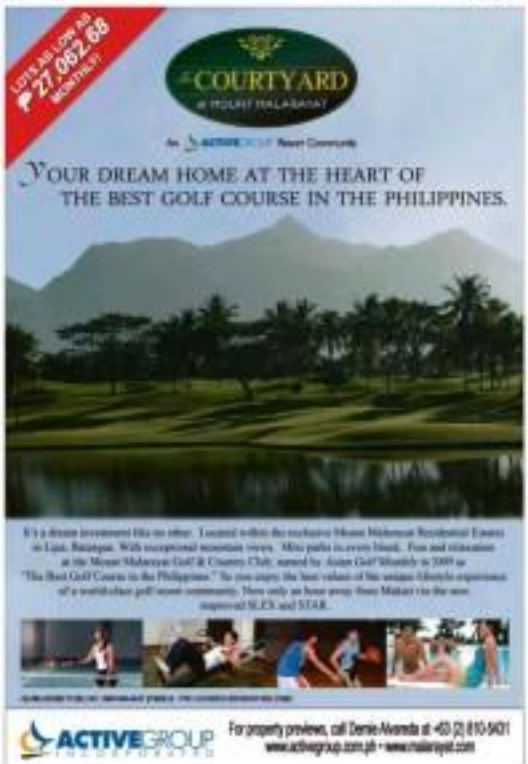

LEV DIAZ

JEFFREY jeturian

Manunuri critics name 10 best Filipino films, top actors of the 2000's

DESERO Dir. 34th Gawad Urian on May 17, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino will also hand out the Gawad Urbanda for the 10 best films of the previous decade, 2000-2009. They are:

1) "Bulong Buni Sida" (2000) by Lav Diaz
2) "Tuhog" (2001) by Jeffrey Jeturian
3) "Bahay na Bulaklak" (2002) by Mario O'Hara
4) "Magnifico" (2002) by Marilou A. de los Reyes
5) "Kubrador ng Hardcopy/Nipitor" (2004) by Lav Diaz
6) "Ang Pagpapalaya ni Maximo Oliveros" (2005) by Auraeus Solito
7) "Kubrador" (2006) by Jeffrey Jeturian
8) "Serbis" (2008) by Brillante Mendoza
9) "Kinatay" (2009) by Brillante Mendoza
10) "Lola" (2009) by Brillante Mendoza

The Manunuri will also name the best performers of the decade. Cherry Pie Picache, Gina Pareño and Coco Martin.

COCO Martin

CHERRY Pie Picache

GINA Pareño

List of 2011 nominees

From page A3

Lorena ("Perya"); Zsa Zsa Padilla ("Bigwa"); Rosanna Roces ("Perya")

Best Cinematography. Gabriel Bagasa ("Ulan"); Albert Banzon ("Ang Alamat ni Pusalan ng Bato"); Ariel Bañares and Dexter de la Peña ("Mamay"); Mike Bridges ("Sanglay"); Christian Linao ("Ang Damgo ni Ebarle"); Lee Meily ("Antipas"); McRoldert Narisma ("Limbunan"); Takeyuki Ozaki ("Dagim"); Jun Pacana Jr. ("Di/Alamopora ang Gabi").

Best Production Design. Senen Acuña ("Crayola"); Bagnuat Ampalayo, Jun Cayas, and Shane Cuntapay ("Sheika"); Rodell Cave ("Antipas"); Boni de Guzman ("Ang Mundo sa Panahon ng Bato"); Sherwin Endaveza ("Limbunan"); Rodrigo Rizo ("Ebon"); Roland Sulamanta ("Dasmá"); Amor Shaff ("Hahaw"); Ester Tapanco ("Ang Damgo ni Ebarle").

Best Editing. Rommel Alano ("Hay"); Danilo G. Abesamis ("Bukot"); Willie apa Jr. and Arthur Ian Gavia ("Sheika"); Aleks Castañeda ("Perya"); Chuck Gutierrez and Lester Ongyo ("Hahaw").

Best Music. Manno Enriquez ("Antipas"); Rhayo de Leon, LC de Leon, Cleo de Leon ("Encelyn"); Mark Lacuya ("Pagpapanggap"); Perong Landero ("Sheika"); Arnie Lustrom ("Di Nararapat ang Gabi"); Jess Santiago ("Ang Pagbibiro at Maag Serenata"); Jowald Tarog ("Ang Damgo ni Encarnita"); Joseffino "Chino" Toledo ("Dasmá").

Best Sound. Noyoy Batocael ("Ang Damgo ni Ebarle"); Mike Idioso ("Sampaguita"); Mark Lacuya ("Angin"); Elroy Moreano ("Serge"); Jose Peralta, Lyckel Tolentino and Mike Ulatan ("Hahaw"); Dempster Samonte ("Limbunan"); Mel Sengco and Pedo Angelo Lindaya ("Sheika").

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emerie G. Velarde

INSIDE
■ This band nearly stole Bieber's show
Take Five /E3

Let's help unhappy child stars

JULIANA Wurtz

SEEMORE' current concern about the abuse or exploitation of children on television comes right in the midst of time and not a moment too soon, because kiddie-talents are coming on really strongly on TV these days, with new talentfest top-billing child actors in key roles.

On "Captain Barbell," Alfred Vargas plays the superhero clue actor's sassy little sidekick. On the fantasy-reality series, "100 Days," Xyriel Manabat costars with Casey Reyes as the mean actress' "mini me." "Magic Palayok" has a number of juvenile lead players. The new 6:00h (7 days), "Wansang Bituin," is all about a rich snob who end up in an impoverished home.

Fantasy format

The plot thickens even more when you factor in the shows starring latest this month, with Alfuan conserving to a second series, 'Andres de Saya,' with Jomar Montano and Ara Colmenares.

Why have children become so popular on TV? A contributing factor is the fact that many television series these days are of the fantasy

ARTICLE

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Panda' pals Black, Jolie bond over shark ride

LOS ANGELES—Friendships that start with a ride share aboard a giant shark are bound to go somewhere.

Angelina Jolie and Jack Black first bonded seven years ago as they rode the 14-foot (4.3-meter) inflatable fish with Will Smith along the Mediterranean beside at the Cannes Film Festival—a stunt to promote their animated comedy "Shark Tale."

They had met before but "only said 'hi' in passing. That float on the shark was the beginning of a blossoming friendship," Jolie said. "They say you learn most about somebody in an hour of play than in a year of conversation, so I think that happened."

Six year since, Black and Jolie reunited to voice co-stars in 2008's martial-arts adventure "Kung Fu Panda" and now its sequel, due in US theaters May 26.

In "Kung Fu Panda 2," Dark characters do wind up evading a few blows, although they are allies against a villain (voiced by Gary Oldman) using gunpowder and cannons to end the scrap of Kung Fu and conquer ancient China.

Black and Jolie see clear similarities between themselves and their cartoon characters. For Black, Tigress and Jolie lack sheer strength and intelligence on the surface, with a simmering danger underneath. AP

Let's help unhappy...

Viewpoint E1

HOPE: Louise Bay stars in "Dancing Outsiders."

JOSEL Mendez

Concerted PR move

Another insidious development: Right after the "snatcher-donning fray" ensued, the viewing public's concern was high, but due to our all too predictable telegu-esque mentality, the appeal has noticeably abated, as newsgheens are resorting to other, fare-since items.

Worse, there appears to be a concerted PR move to downplay the "child abuse" angle, with some commentators pondering the very idea that anything significantly reprehensible happened at all!

It's clear, therefore, that the Fight to protect child talents is far from over, as viewers should continue to be concerned and outraged. Most but numbers can vouch for the existence of child abuse and exploitation, despite rules meant to guard against it, and the presence of so-called "supervisors"—who could be complicit by "unquestionably" looking the other way when inherently are committed.

Our own motivation for doing our bit to protect child talent comes from our sad experience involving a child actress we once worked with.

She was already an adolescent but her parents still used to put her acquiring excessively "parma" and "trendy" traits, prematurely "adult" values from their more mature co-workers, and learning to take it at an age when they should be childlike, genuine and honest.

Miserable, trapped

When she had her first period, her parents hope it a big occasion and told her that she had to act as "kalchi" as ever so she would continue getting roles in the movies and on TV. The poor girl wailed, "I'm already 13 years old. I'm not a child anymore—but I'm forced to work on my family's breadwinner, and I feel miserable and trapped!"

Let's all do what we can to help solve child talents who are unhappy, overworked or otherwise exploited or escape from this psychological trap...and "leeeng" bondage.

Ayala Malls Cinemas

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1) PRIEST (3D)
2) THOR (3D)
3) FAST FIVE
4) THE KING'S SPEECH
5) WATER FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
6) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
7) SOMETHING BORROWED

GREENBELT 3
1) FAST FIVE
2) THOR (3D)
3) THE KING'S SPEECH
4) PRIEST (3D)
5) SOMETHING BORROWED

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1) IN THE NAME OF LOVE
2) THOR
3) PRIEST (3D)
4) FAST FIVE
5) SOMETHING BORROWED

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Meet the Fil-Am band that nearly stole Bieber's show

By Pocholo Concepcion

The recent Justin Bieber concert at the SM Mall of Asia open grounds enthralled, not so much because of the Canadian teen pop star's performance (his vocals and dancing were not up to par, reportedly due to ill health); but because of the presence of his Fil-American backup singers who call themselves Legasi.

The group, based in the San Francisco Bay area and currently composed of Chris Mad, Steffy Lagrosa, Dominique Manuel and Micah Tolentino, nearly stole the show with the great mastery of harmony and some superior technique. (I hesitated dubbing a sole spot member — an a cappella medley of contemporary pop hits.

Legasi has released two studio albums, 2006's "Little Black Book" and 2007's "Increase." The guys chatted with the buzzers via e-mail, while they were still in Singapore, waiting for status "Debong" to pass before flying to Manila for the concert.

What motivated you to form Legasi?

Each: Growing up, I loved listening to Boyz II Men, so to be in a vocal group (that would sing harmonies as they did) was our dream. Legasi is the realization of that dream.

Chris: I love also my cousins, and I wanted to pursue it with friends.

Micah: Singing on stage was my first love. Surrounding myself with harmony made that experience better.

Denis: I grew up singing in church, so harmony was something I got exposed to early. There were many R&B vocal groups around when I was growing up, so singing in a group became one of my dreams. Boyz II Men and Joe were the ones that inspired me.

TAKE FIVE

The first Legasi release poured on YouTube were intended to gain international fan base. What helped the videos attract a huge following?

Legasi has been posting videos on YouTube for the past three years. What made our videos unique is that we took the old songs and made them our own. We did this by stripping off all the synthetic elements like Auto-Tune, and performing the song in five acoustically (with piano or guitar) or a cappella. Four Filipino-Americans singing the montage of our YouTube videos are the big screen. He announces that he was found on YouTube and how we were as well, then gives us our own set.

Touring with Bieber, what have you learned so far?

Chris: It's a full-time job that requires us to be consistent with multi-them. We've realized that our must stay as healthy as possible and keep our vocal chords in top shape. Unlike a regular job, however, there is no such thing as "calling in sick" for a show.

Has the offer to sing backup for Bieber the kind of break that Legasi was aiming for?

Deb: We can honestly say we never thought of backup singing as a platform to gain exposure. We knew that by posting consistent, high-quality YouTube videos, someone would notice us, but we thought it would be a record label or manager. From there we would record an album and... participate. Instead, becoming backup singers for Justin Bieber is a huge stepping stone for us, and we are honored as to be exposed to millions of people, more than we ever could have imagined.

Chris: The offer to sing backup for Bieber was a pleasant surprise. We have every intention of taking advantage of this opportunity to build the Legasi brand.

Denis: The interesting thing about this gig is that it's only a piece of the puzzle. Halfway through every one of the shows on the "My World Tour" (over 110 shows to date), Justin plays a montage of our YouTube videos on the big screen. He announces that he was found on YouTube and how we were as well, then gives us our own set.

Touring with Bieber, what have you learned so far?

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Micah: The lesson is that fans are everything in an artist. They can make or break an artist, and the more an artist interacts with his fans, the better off they are in the future. Being on tour with JB has enabled us to meet our fans from all over the world, as well as make new fans.

How is touring with fans different?

It's been difficult to settle down and do YouTube videos while on the road, which is what we have to do and which, ironically, was our ticket to touring with fans. But the most difficult part is being away from home. We miss our family and friends. Being on the road is a brainwash experience because the joy of visiting different countries is ruined with feelings of homesickness. But what gets us through is knowing that people at home are supporting us 100 percent.

How the attention inside people interested in Legasi's own songs?

Yes! There has been a substantial demand for us to release our own material. Touring with JB has brought us to many fans who enjoy our singing and want to hear our own original music.

Are you ready to record a new album?

Never been more ready! We've been working on a few originals during this tour and plan on finishing them right after we. We have an all-star production team on board.

How are you able to express the Fil-American experience in your songs?

Chris: The Filipino-American experience sets us different from the lives of regular Americans. We have a unified culture, especially when it comes to music. Legasi was brought up listening to R&B and acoustic music, so our songs reflect that.

Micah: Never giving up and working hard at something, until you get results is a very Filipino trait. We are proud of our heritage for instilling that in us. I think it shows in our music.

Denis: I believe this experience and our story as a whole have proven how talented and determined Filipinos and Fil-Americans are. It's no secret that Filipinos and Asians in general have had so many roadblocks in the American music, music entertainment industry, and if not for Manny Pacquiao, Charice, Arnel Pineda, apl.de.ap and the Filipino perseverance and drive and a "never say never" attitude, we probably wouldn't have pushed so hard as we did. We feel like it's our responsibility to pave the way and inspire other Filipinos.

How long is this tour and what's next for Legasi?

We've been touring for almost a year now and this leg ends in two weeks. After this, Legasi will record an original album and continue touring on its own. We want to build our fan base, and get our name out there and we see a major artist like Justin Bieber.

MISS Philippines-Earth candidates hug each other in celebration after the announcement of the winners.

Candidates for Earth pageant down to 30

By Anna Adina

THE 2011 Miss Philippines-Earth is down to its last 30 candidates after two rounds of cuts by eliminations held in the cities of Pasay to Metro Manila and Lahuyan in Oriental Mindoro.

Maria Rose Estrozo (Cabanatuan), Mary Grace Quingo (Mandaluyong), Cheberwill Alejandro (Legazpi), Hanny Arranguez (Davao), Ludeligh Joy Oreperal, Glaiza Jasmine Libangan), Carl Campbell (Central Ilo) and Princess Ilyana (San Pedro) were included in the first set announced during the special Long Gowns Competition in Calapan last May 9.

Last Thursday, the second round of elimination was held at the Casual Wear Competition at Open in Resorts World Manila.

Among those booted out were Aisha Queen's Estrella Cabrera, pageant queen of 2005 featuring Filipina-Universe Gloria Cabrera, and Miss Congeniality Noelle Nacis from Isabela Putian, La Union.

Second cut

Also in the second cut were Blanchie Bilisa (Antipolo), Christine Ash Bagasin), Reverlyn Alquiros (Bulacan), Charisa Bacsasmita (Caloocan), Imelda Calderon (Philippine community of Canada), Mercy Mahakasi (Cagayan), Elyssa Reyes (Cebu) and Kelpi Sinkoli (Davao, Maguindanao).

The competition started with 50 delegates from across the country and some overseas Filipino communities. Two bets, Christine Rodriguez (Muntinlupa) and Jannie Lyn Pagalanan (Santiago), backed out of the contest before the candidates were announced.

Pageant organizer Carousel Productions said the elimination will cut after only 30 candidates remain.

Project director Peachy Veracruz said this development "makes the pageant more exciting" and shows that the competition does not only take place during the pageant night.

Catherine Untalan, executive director of pageant partner Miss Earth Foundation, said the elimination was a result of two closed-door pre-judging sessions with different boards of judges. The ladies were chosen based on their physical beauty and their grasp of environmental knowledge.

The pageant is seeking an ambassadress for environmental advocacies.

Makati bet

Among those who remain in the race is Barbara Alyn (Makati), who recently earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of the Philippines.

She said a highly advertised city such as Makati may still oppose the "International Year of the Forests" declared by the United Nations this year.

"It does not matter if we live in small spaces," she explained. "We can build pocket gardens on rooftops and even just pot plants on roofs of our residences. That's one simple act we can observe the 'Year of the Forest' and it can just good for one year, but defines what the environment will be for many years to come."

The third round of elimination will take place during the Cocktail Wear Competition on October 20 at the Cirkus Rotunda Auditorium at the BCDC Plaza in Makati City.

The coronation night in Puerto Princesa City on June 3 will be aired on ABS-CBN same day at 9 p.m.

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New kids on the block

By Rachel R. Cruz

DIRECTOR Mark Reyes with the wards (from left, seated) Elsa Caballero, Meg Imperial, Elle Castro, Nadine Lustre and Johan Lauron, and (standing) Aki Ilorin, Rico de la Paz, Josh Padilla and AJ Muhlach.

"I'M HAVING so much fun with this. I guess it can be seen in the finished product," said Director Mark Reyes, who just can't stop talking about his latest project—the TV adaptation of the 1980s hit film "Bagets."

Inquirer Entertainment chatted with him during the recent preview of the "Bagets" pilot episode at the Fashion Hub in Ortigas. Reyes also talked about how it's like doing a remake of what he described as a "cultural phenomenon," as well as being a parent to over a dozen kids.

Is it tough working with young and new actors?

They are all neophytes when it comes to acting but they are all eager to learn, during the shoot-conference, we told them, "You're now carrying the name of 'Bagets.' This is something we broke records in. If one of you screws up, it's going to affect the entire team."

Is there a technique on how to direct first-time actors?

Each generation differs. I thought I would get more headache from this group than the batch of Bobby Andrews in TGB. These kids have more respect for authority. There was no prima donna.

How truthful is this to the original "Bagets?"

Chooks Rigos and Raymond Lauchengco (members of the original cast) are working closely with the kids. They tell them how it was back in their days. When Chooks saw the pilot episode, she said, "Yup, you got it!"

How did you choose the cast?

This is a joint venture between Viva Entertainment and TFC. The network recommended Kim (de la Paz) and Elsa (Caballero), AJ (Muhlach) and Aki (Ilorin) are from GMA. AJ is the brother of Aga on via (Imagine it would be good to continue the tradition). Johan (Lauron), Martin (Delaye), Julian (Calderon) and Lorna (Lauron) were only some of the people who auditioned.

Did you require the cast not to watch the original "Bagets?"

When they already had a sense of their characters, I let them see the original. I saw On this a long time ago, I made it a point not to watch it when I started the series para di ako ma-influence.

Do you think these kids would be able to equal, if not surpass, the popularity of the original cast?

It's always a learning experience every time they work. I'm confident that they will reach a point na ga-galing sila nang perform.

What can we expect in the coming episodes?

There were several requests I had to make—like the very big drifting scene on the pilot episode. I also requested that we shoot it film style. There will be a lot of twists and turns.

"Bagets" airs on TV5 at 10:30 p.m.

ASHTON Kutcher

Can he keep 'Men' a hit show?

NEW YORK— There's a new man on the scene at "Two and a Half Men." But is Ashton Kutcher man enough?

With Friday's announcement that Kutcher would be replacing Charlie Sheen, viewers could begin to wonder how he will be plugged into the hit sitcom's tight little world. Can he appeal to the soul of the cynical, oddly droll Alan? And just who will his character be?

Anti-Sheen

Neither CBS nor Chuck Lorre, the series' creator, gave any hints as they confirmed the deal to bring Kutcher into a show where Sheen's character was the comic centre, an advertising jingle writer with a playboy lifestyle and an unmanageable brother.

Kutcher, who first burned sitcom dividends more than a decade ago on "That '70s Show," specializes in peppy dog wholesomeness and laid-back, goofy sentience. It's perhaps the anti-Sheen.

"I can't explain Charlie (Sheen)," said Kutcher, adding that he plans to avoid hard "no entertain" the hell out of people."

Thursday on Twitter, Kutcher gave his followers a dig shot: "What's the square root of 6.25?" the actor talked in a tweet.

The answer is 2 1/2. AP

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ENTERTAINMENT

Confessions of a Webber diva

Delia Hannah is proud to be the oracle for the timeless tunes of a musical genius

By Baxter Ser Diego Jr.

DELIA Hannah

BURBANK—Singer-actress Delia Hannah is a consummate diva who, at the drop of a hat, would belt out excerpts from the musical theater canon in the middle of a convenience store.

On stage and off, she is an engaging and enthralling as her most memorable characters.

Hannah is part of the powerhouse cast of "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," a musical concert that is currently touring Australia and New Zealand and will hit Manila next month.

In a review that came out in this city's The Courier Mail, Hannah was hailed "as the unquestionable star of the [show]," for "movingly" singing "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" and "Memory."

Big girl songs

She got the nuances when she auditioned for "Aspects of Love" in London in the 1990s. "It [could have been] nerve-wracking, but he made me feel at ease."

Asked what's it like to be a Webber diva, Hannah quipped, relishing each syllable: "Lovely. I'm classless but in touch."

In the show, she is assigned the tougher show stoppers: "I get the big anthems. I call them the 'big girl songs.' She conceded that not anyone could pull off those classics. Apart from the driving high and low notes, "You've got to leave life experiences. You need to have suffered, so you can bring a touch of authentic pain to these songs."

She related that she first auditioned for Cinderella (which she played in last year's touring production of "Cats") when she was in her 20s.

"I might have sounded fantastic, but I wasn't ready for the role," she admitted.

CONFESSIONS F3

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HERBERT Bautista

Two award-winning actresses may join TV5

From page FD

Monteses, Miguel Castro and Cita Villanueva.

Lotlot Hind, who first sang in the musical TV show when she was 14, joined the group when they landed in the United States. They have so far done four shows out of the scheduled twelve. Engagements have been overwhelmingly constructed.

Our balikbayans are hungry for shows of this kind, where classic handmades and contemporary Filipino music are running together to tell a story, an essence of taste.

"Another Kiss," with its unmistakable beat, triggers homesickness in the displaced Filipinos and leaves him teary-eyed and longing for more.

Missing piece

GMA 7 presents "Mommy Dearest," an inspiring new adventure in its prime time block (after "Captain Barbell" on 10th Installment). It tells of a grandmother's search for the missing piece in her life, her "missing homeless."

Portraying the lead character of Doña Anastasia, a still-svelte, widowed businesswoman, is revered veteran actress Gloria Romero. Asian Television Awards Best Actor Rudevick Pinabuo takes on the important role of Manny, a clever homeless small trader whose yearning for a child pushes him to adopt one.

Discover how a family overcomes again by pride and greed can still be restored by love, forgiveness and faith.

E-mail: watermelonbebang@yahoo.com

Confessions...

From page FI

"Twenty-somethings ain't play Scrabble(a, Nintendo Document) (Nintendo Boulevard!) and Xin Jones (Jones)."

All three joints she sees gets is perform, with episodic, to this show.

'Brass ring'

Those are rules considered the "brass ring" by every female thespian. "They are pretty prizes, strong characters. I've pretty much built my life's career playing intense, passionate, pretty flawed but interesting women. I enjoy doing those roles," Hannah said.

A native of New Zealand, she has been blessed to participating for her compatriots who are reeling from the earthquakes that hit Christchurch. On the same way that Brisbane can relate were to cowering from flash floods at the time of the show's run in the city.

"The world's been getting a hammering as the seasons," Hannah said. "We had to cancel Christchurch, but we're pushing through with the shows to my hometown, Wellington, and my current base, Auckland."

She's assured that the hearty people of Brisbane were able to pull through as swiftly after the calamity.

Gorgeous, fantastic

"They're gorgeous, fantastic to work with," she said of the Pit-Asianos. "I just love their warmth. They're such spirited, beautiful folks."

She's eager to visit Manila in June, her first time in the Philippines. "I want to experience the unique culture. I have that Filipino sex warm and friendly," she said.

The Manila run of "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," scheduled from June 24 to July 3 at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, is presented by Limelight Theatrical Productions, Revel & Ritz Entertainment, All Youth Channels, Orchard and Ensemble, in association with Webber's The Really Useful Company Asia Pacific.

UK ARTIST MOONY FOR SAN MIG LIGHT "PARTY ALL NIGHT"

San Mig Light, the country's no.1 low-calorie beer brand, once again brings the much-awaited San Mig Light Party All Night, with no other than top UK artist Moony headlining the ultimate club party in the Philippines.

Italian sensation Moony (Monica Biagioli), the voice behind top hits "Point of View", "Closer I'll Be Loving You", "For Your Love" and "I Don't Know Why" among other dance tunes, performed at the Cebu Mariner's Court on May 7.

This is the third time that the Verona-born artist is visiting the Philippines.

Moony fired up Cebuanos' mood for clubbing with her all-time hits and new tracks from her own albums Lilustrenia and "4 your Love" plus well-loved collaborations with Spliter, Angel Moon, DB Boulevard, Richie Lucherl, T&T vs Moreno, go-go's Rodela Rivera.

Popular Cebu disc jockeys Marvin Evangelista, Raoul Bueno, Patrick Ronan and Mark Cohen spun their own brand of music prior to the main act.

This year, San Mig Light Party All Night adopts the Black Light ambiance to provide an alluring treat to Cebu clubbers. Imagine an interplay of anything and everything that glows in the dark - from neon accents, souvenir party access-sories like bracelets that party-lifters get to wear for every purchase of San Mig Light, a ticket to the glow-in-the-dark body paint booth and a chance to doodle your thoughts on your graffiti on the Freedom Wall.

Merely the catch: the more San Mig Light you and your friends drink, the more you will glow in the dark while grooving to the hottest club tunes in the nation!

Last year San Mig Light launched its Party All Night Big-house event which saw the arrivals of known foreign DJs and artists including DJ Mel Casey from the U.K. and Malaysian DJ John Roy, as well as Ronnie Bailey who performed in Cebu and drew in around 4,000 partygoers.

The success of last year's event has inspired the brand to stage more exciting performances for Filipino clubbers.

On June 25, the San Mig Light Party All Night will be held in Manila, featuring British artist Chicane.

For more of San Mig Light Party All Night events, visit San Mig Light on Facebook ("San Mig Light Brewery") or www.sanmiglight.com.ph.

Two award-winning actresses may join TV5

ALS VILMA Santos and Lorna Tolentino joining TV5 sometime soon! If so, the two award-winning actresses ought to do a project together. That's what I call "two match" and a double delight.

'Bagets' guest

Mayor Herbert Bautista was in high spirits when I saw him during his birthday celebration at the Quezon City City Hall.

"I've never been used to receiving gifts," he said. "So let my birthday, I want us be the one to give something to my constituents."

It his heart never into politics than show biz?

"I'd rather call it service than politics," he said. "Aga (Muhlach) asked me if I would want to host a musician show with him. I'm open to the idea as long as it does not get in the way of my duties as a mayor."

What can he say about the revival of "Bagets," which has nine years of many fans ago? "It's good to know that the movie we did years ago has made such an impact," he said. "It merits a revival. I would love to be a guest on the show just wag naman lalong role-to-laughs."

How many kids does he have as of the last counting? "Let's not go there (laughs). What's important is I make sure to spend quality time with my kids." Well done, then coach!

ABC show

If plans don't miscarry, there might be a show called "ABC" – A for Aga, B for Bagets (Alphonsus) and C for Cesar (Montano). Interesting combination! Let's bet on that "alphabet"!

Hunt for Aunor

A dealer of a high-end brand of watch is hunting down Nora Aunor. "He issued bearing checks for five watches worth P182,000," the agent laments. "He doesn't answer my calls. If he doesn't settle matters, I will file estafa charges against him. He should be a good example to his countrymen in Britain," Pahabol ni "Ismol" please!

Concert tour

Arnaldo "The Male" Signino-Reyno is on a concert tour all over the United States. Titled "Asawihan, Biro Sa Amerika," the tour includes Bayang Barrios, Rachelle Ann Go, Bo Cervantes, Michael Reyneros, Fonzi

PAGE 6

Explosive finale for 'Gossip Girl,' 'Vampire Diaries'

BLAKE Lively

THE RUMOR is out! Blair Waldorf will have a ring on her finger by the end of the "Gossip Girl" season 4 finale.

The question is, who will give it to her?

Viewers will find out who their favorite Queen B from New York chooses to give her heart to on May 19 at 8 p.m. on ETC.

This season, viewers followed Blair (Leighton Meester) to Paris, the city of love, where she met Louis (guest star Hugo Becker), her very own prince.

Returning to New York, she tries to make the last epic love story with her ex of the Big Apple Chuck (Ed Westwick).

Then, the unthinkable happened. Blair Waldorf fell for nemesis Dan Humphrey (Penn Badgley). The two who have never seen eye-to-eye, realized that they had a lot more in common than they thought.

"The Vampire Diaries," ETC's supernatural hit drama, also readies a breathtaking

Season two has brought with it a pack of werewolves, a 146 century vampire doppelganger, vampires from the original family, witches, warlocks and missing family members.

In the season finale titled "So I Lay Dying," the characters deal with the morning after the sacrifice, in which Klaus (guest star Joseph Morgan) tries to lift the curse placed upon him.

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Taking her *UP education* to heart

By Tarra Quismundo

ALTHOUGH Gen Gwendaliz Ibanez graduated with a record-breaking final grade at the University of the Philippines in 1982, she practically forgot about the accomplishment after receiving her diploma and delivering the valedictory speech.

For the unassuming eye doctor, grades, with the tedious decimal points that may make or break rewards, are not really the measure of a person.

What matters, she says, is the heart for service and love of country that one draws in and out of school—qualities that UP teaches every graduate.

"The GWA (general weighted average) is just a measure of being a good student. But does that make you a good person? Does that make you a productive member of society?" said Ibanez, who is married to Rene Ibanez, Inquirer's senior vice president for sales and marketing.

"It's all about living the life of a student even if you're already old—being an eternal student and an eternal teacher. At the UP College of Medicine, we're trained to always learn one, like a prosecutor, doctor and teacher sing Seven Up, it's the same way," Ibanez said.

She even held UP Ollimon's record for the highest post-test undergraduate GWA, with an average of 1.31, when she graduated Bachelor of Science in Zoology, last pre-medicine course. The record was beated only this year by John Gabriel Dylan, who received a degree in mathematics with a GWA of 1.016.

Ibanez, who topped the 1978 UP entrance examinations, got a grade of 1.22 in only two subjects, the second highest grade in the university, throughout her college life—in Psychiatric communication and one laboratory subject. The rest were perfect "ones."

She then graduated cum laude from the UP College of Medicine, then finished her biochemistry doctorate with magna cum laude honors at the University of Michigan in the United States, where she finished with a scholarship.

Looking back, the glaucoma specialist said the almost-1.0 a tinge of guilt delivering the valedictory speech in 1982. She felt a miasma cum laude graduates of electrical engineering, a course she felt was tougher than hers, should have had the honor.

"There were many summa cum laudes in my class but I had the highest GWA so I was made commencement speaker. But there was this guy who was summa in electrical engineering ... There were so many summa cum laudes in engineering, and I think engineering is the toughest college in the whole UP system," Ibanez said.

Believing nurses in social science courses should not be compared to geeks in the natural and physical sciences, Ibanez said, "That's why I don't like talking about GWAs. It's not fair to those so much as points."

She was so modest about her grades that husband Ibanez and their children Eric, John and Regina Teresa did not know about her accomplishment until the papers reported Bida's GWA and published the names of previous record holders.

TARRA QUISMUNDO

BABON specializes in glaucoma, a cliff incipitus eye disease that is a leading cause of blindness

BABON on her graduation with mother Gertrudis and father Miguel

Exit interview with Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ

OUTGOING Fr. Ben Nebres

THE Ateneo de Manila University's president of 18 years retires this month. (See *features* on Page G8.) Here is an excerpt from Inquirer's "exit interview" with him.

What were your leadership priorities as AdMU president?

I see my main responsibility as president of Ateneo as that of creating an environment and enabling policies and structures, as well as generating needed resources, so the different units in the university could effectively achieve the goals they have set, in coordination with university priorities ... More simply, my role and responsibility is to make the system, as a whole, function well and functioning and, beyond that, to achieve excellence at least in some areas.

You are a Jesuit priest, a **teacher, a mathematician,** a **director** of several **companies. How did these** other roles influence your role as a university president?

I say Sunday Mass in a small chapel for a poor community in old Bahara Subdivision. Bahara is a huge urban poor area. After Mass I am often asked to bless the dead in homes deep into the congested and dark alleys. I consider it my weekly reality check. One privilege of being a priest is you can move in different circles of Philippine society. It helped me see themes and Ateneo's role and responsibility more clearly.

As director of business companies, I have come to understand the world of globalization in very concrete terms; the hectic pace, the relentless demands of analysis, the nervousness and fickleness, etc. It has helped me understand better the world for which we are preparing our students.

Being a mathematician and teacher is very much connected with my inner core, the way I think, the way I see the world, for example, there is a process we use in my field of mathematics called "back and forth" process, meaning that we have two things (usually he discuss that are hard to prove) a single cohesive structure, and the back and forth process brings them closer to each other by successive approximations.

I used that paradigm when we were moving from the school of arts and sciences to the present Loyola Schools. Initially, positions on the transition were quite far from each other, but we designed a

BASE G4

Quiz

2011 WORLD WAR II TRUE STORIES CONTEST

A soldier's story

By Bernard H. Padilla
Candaring High School, Antipolo, Rizal

Author's Note: The following is excerpted from the essay that won fifth prize in the 2011 WWII True Stories contest. Padilla got an iPad Touch, while his teacher-coach, Francis Eleazar Castro Gamboa, received a token from PSE. Padilla is an incoming freshman but because of his family's financial hardship he will not be enrolling this coming school year. Offers of scholarship to Padilla may be e-mailed to learning@inquirer.com.ph or sent by text message to (0918) 5824063.)

"Pain is delightful to those who have had no experience of it."—Erasmus

HOMETOWN said Lambo to Hagay Miranda of Candaring, Antipolo, Pampanga—Apung Hiraya to family and friends—was a treasure but there were many who believed he was a hero.

Now in his eighties, Apung Hiraya is about five-foot six-tall. He has bad knees and wrinkles, like permanent marks of his struggle, sacrifices and courage.

I started this interview by asking him about life before World War II. He love lit up as he recalled childhood memories.

"Life then was simple and peaceful," Apung Hiraya said. "We used to weave baskets, hats and other products using rattan (vuhan) belonging to the palm family). We caught fish at the Pampanga river after the floods. Softball and volleyball were the popular sports in our barangay. We also enjoyed merry-making, chasing after our playmates in the vast rice field in 'sapatos' them."

But when asked about the war years, he paused for a minute and looked outside the gates. His face was clouded with sadness this time.

He said in 1941, when news about the Japanese invasion spread, sights of men and women enlisting for military or even service became common in every town.

"I joined the guerrilla force, motivated by vengeance and anger. The cruelty of the Japanese against our people was unbelievable. They killed us (Ilongkos) or not human, justifying the rape, torture and murder of our women, men and children," he said.

In 1942, the commander of Philippine-American forces in Candaring gave the order to evacuate our troops in Santa Barbara, Nueva Ecija, to help the 22nd squadron already fighting the Japanese.

By the time the Candaring unit arrived, 20 of their comrades were already dead. The Japanese bid among the prisoners (still groaned) and shot at the guerrillas who could not see them.

Apung Hiraya realized it was no longer a game of mere numbers as sure to the Dutch line for a fight for his own life and those of his comrades. Though it was his first real battle, he was fearless.

"The enemies were unreliable. One troops were being fired at but we did not know

A SOLDIER'S G3

FIGURA (left) with teacher-coach Zarreen and Philippine Veterans Bank president and CEO Ricardo Salcedo Jr. at WWII True Stories awarding ceremonies

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Southville partners with Rotary Club for Entrepreneurship Programs

THE SOUTHVILLE Global Education Network (SGEN) recently signed several agreements with the Rotary Club of Makati – Salcedo Chapter for the latter to provide funds to support the business ventures of students enrolled in SGEN's entrepreneurship and capital market and securities programs. The agreements were formally sealed on March 4 at Southville International University, in the presence of Dr. Genevieve Ledesma-Tan, chief executive officer of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), Dr. Angelito Dizon, president of Rotary Club of Makati-Salcedo, and Dr. Rhoderick Santos, chair of Vulcom Private Equity Unlimited Inc.

Under the provisions of the agreements, SGEN students may avail of short or medium term loans, or venture capital financing, depending on the needs and nature of their project. They may borrow for their projects an amount as P100,000 for a maximum period of sixty days at noncollateral rates. Venture capital is available up to P400,000. The club shall also provide funds for stock investments up to a maximum amount of P75,000 per student. To qualify for assistance, students must submit a duly approved business plan and comply with reporting requirements.

The joint agreements were designed to boost the strong entrepreneurial culture in the SGEN academic community and encourage students to pursue entrepreneurial activities and projects which contribute to national economic development. The assistance also underscores Rotary Club's commitment to support entrepreneurship on the national level, and promote students' awareness of capital markets.

FEU PROFESSOR WINS FINEX-CITIBANK AWARD

Fernando Gumban Buenconsejo, an associate professor at the Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance (IABF) of the Far Eastern University, received the 2010 Search for the Finex Citibank Rafael S. Suansomboon Outstanding Finance Educator Award in the National Capital Region. Buenconsejo was chosen from 29 nominees from all over the Philippines, all of whom are bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree holders with educational attainment. Buenconsejo graduated from FEU in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and went to the University of Santo Tomas for his MBA in 2001. His desire to pursue his passion brought her back to her alma mater to teach.

SCDA HOISTS BIGGEST PHILIPPINE FLAG

St. Dominic College of Asia's academic community recently initiated the biggest Philippine Flag measuring 20.5 x 10 ft hoisted at 100 ft high pole. The said activity is in line with SDCA's commitment to nurture nationalism and patriotism. The event also launched the SDCA Revolutionizing Education program attended by administrators, faculty, staff and students who were not to neglect support and gratitude. Shown: SDCA administrators, members of the enrollment team and student leaders carrying the flag during the flag raising ceremony.

PCDEB hails UE CBA-Manila dean

UNIVERSITY OF the East (UE) College of Business Administration Manila Dean Veronica R. Elicaño has marked her professional career with distinction when the Philippine Council of Deans and Educators in Business (PCDEB) hailed her national awardee as Outstanding Business Educator in Economics. This recognition is the highest honor in Elicaño's current professional career. It was come true upon her by her peers after careful consideration of her credentials and personal achievements and thorough deliberation by the Board of Judges, on March 18 at the Lecture of the Philippines University, Intramuros, Manila, during the 8th Business Education Industry Summit and the 10th Annual PCDEB Conference, March 17 to 18. A UE alumna, Elicaño finished Bachelor of Arts in Economics in October 1977. She completed her Master in Business Administration in 1998. She rose from the ranks, starting as faculty member at the UE College of Business Administration (Manila) in 1979. And later, up over the deanship in 2004. She was appointed department chair in 2009-11 and Associate Dean in 2006-08.

Angelicum College holds first academic summit

ACADEMICIANS, PARENTS, alumni, teachers recently converged for the first academic summit in Angelicum College tackling the issue on implementing the non-graded system in the country, with the theme: A Revisit of the New Graded System for a Better Angelicum College of the 21st Floors. This summit further gave venue for both parents and educators to draft inputs as basis for policy-making enhancing the implementation of non-graded system. Angelicum College is the pioneer of the non-graded system in the country. The no-grade, no-failure system was initiated by Father Rogelio Asencio, OP, in 1972. "Angelicum's non-graded program, or simply Angelicum as it proceeded from the basic core of allowing each student to have exceptional growth to happen in its natural pace by eliminating the barriers that obstruct it," claimed by Fr. Asencio. According to Fr. Asencio, at Angelicum children may belong to the same year level but are taking up different lessons. This is parallel with both their most children progress quickly in certain subject area while others progress slowly. Angelito Asencio, an Angelicum, a cum laude graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management from the University of Santo Tomas, claimed that: "Angelicum is all about chances, that is why there are no failed grades. It is about taking the lessons again and again until you master it. We are living proofs that the system works."

CHED-NCR DIRECTOR AT UPHLP GRADUATION RITES

University of Perpetual Help System Dalta, co-founder Dr. Daisy Tamayo (2nd from right) awards the plaque of appreciation to Dr. Custodio Cadavedo, director IV, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) National Capital Region (NCR) during the 23rd commencement exercises held at the Pearey Hall of Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City recently. Directo Cadavedo was the guest of honor and speaker of the program. Also in photo is UPHSD president Anthony Tamayo (left) and UPHSD Medical Center president Richard Tamayo (right).

FAITH awards Jose Rizal scholars

FIRST ASIA Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH) names its Jose Rizal scholars for academic year 2011-2012. These scholars were selected through a competitive examination and series of interviews, participated in by around 2,000 students from all over Cebu province. Following are the names of the scholars and the high schools where they graduated from. Lou Jaziel Patcalen, Hope Christian Academy; Monica Tapere, Pedro V. Garcia National High School; Rhea Katrina Fajardo, The Lipa Grace Academy; Nadia Colmoba, The Waters Academy; and Jose Pauline Tolentino, VYP Management Systems Consultants Institute of Technology. Jose Rizal scholars are entitled to 100% discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees, stipend of P12,000 per month and a laptop worth P25,000 per semester for the duration of the study. Scholarships at FAITH are named after the country's heroes who have roots in the Cebuanoan region. The Jose Rizal scholarship is the institution's highest scholarship award. For more information about FAITH's Scholarship programs, please log on to www.firstasia.edu.ph or e-mail inquiries@firstasia.edu.ph.

LASALLIANS WINS TOSP

Lasallian achievers were met on their boards, Jose Glen Eric La Bella Lipa's recent graduates Aalyn de Meza (left) and Maria Angelica Reyes (right), magna cum laudes and cum laude respectively. The young Lasallians won in this year's search for the regional The Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) along with two other classmates. Co-Valedictorian, De Meza was also selected as one of this year's Jose Rizal Model Students, while Reyes had represented the country several times for her environmental advocacies – she

latest of which was Reyes's Young Environmental Envoy in Germany. They are now awaiting the results of the TOSP national finalists.

RMCHS reaps awards in Muscovado contest

MUNTINLUPA City faculty members from the Technological Institute of Philippines (TIP), the selected students of the Ramon Magsaysay (Cubao) High School (RMCHS) reaped awards in the recently held Muscovado contest dubbed as "Muscovado: Adopting the Sugar Learning Platform in Mathematics and Science." RMCHS also happens to be one of the adopted high schools of TIP. The said event, organized by the Iloilo Polytechnic College, a Center of Excellence in IT Education, with partner schools Technological Institute of the Philippines, a Center of Development in IT Education, National University and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, aimed to produce notable computer-based learning activities relevant to the curriculum of grade school levels III and IV in the subject areas of Mathematics, Science and Language. The selected third and fourth year students from the Technological Institute of Philippines (College) had the entries trained by faculty members of TIP brought home the majority of the 12 awards at stake in this event. 3rd place in the Science category for the project "Circulatory System"; first place in Math for the project "Sampayan Island"; second place in English for the project "Understanding objectives in the Journey of Juan"; and third place in Science for the project "Planets". Sampayan Island and Circulatory System were also cited as Best Scratch Project and runner-up, respectively. The Scratch Project category made use of Scratch programming language so that creativities and innovations could hands be showcased at the arts. The "Best Six Legends", another project of RMCHS students, was declared as the winner in the Best IT Apps category. The members from TIP were Geraldine P. Sangga for Math, Rowiena Joy B. Gilamatan for Information Technology, Marilyn Jeanette G. Lasa for English and Gerardo E. Mateo for Science.

JRU Law School offers full scholarships

THE LAW School of Jose Rizal University is offering full scholarships to college graduates interested in pursuing a career in law and possessing a mental aptitude that is consistent with the requirements of a law course. This creative competence is the English language, where average results in the last two terms for comprehension, and legal reasoning and thinking, all of which are essential ingredients in the study of law. For honor graduates, the scholarships will be provided without need of undergoing any qualifying examinations. For other graduates, a qualifying examination and short interview will be conducted on the following dates: May 18, 19 and 20, to be held at the main campus of JRU at 80 Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City starting at 9 a.m. The scholarships will be for one year, which can be retained for the duration of the four-year course if the student maintains a grade of 2.0 in every semester. The JRU Law School is one of the top law schools in the country. In the 2010 Bar Examinations, its passing percentage for first-time examinees is 90% against the national passing percentage of 22%. It is the sixth highest rating in Metro Manila and tenth overall across the country. For further inquiries, please call telephone number 531-8051 local 33, and look for Mela dela Cruz.

CCP 2011 HR Reyes Scholarship Exam results

THE RESULTS of the HR Reyes Scholarship Examinations of the Central College of the Philippines, covering incoming applicants for the school year 2011-2012, shall be now be known through the CCP Admissions Office. According to CCP president Cristino P. Reyes, "The applicants who passed the scholarship exam this year are grouped in various categories depending on the benefits that they are eligible for. Most of these are in the business administration and accountancy, engineering, architecture, computer science, and IT courses, aside from arts and sciences and education." Formal notices are being sent by mail to inform the successful scholarships applicants. Inquiries may be received at the CCP Admissions Office at the CCP Main Campus on 53 Roxas Blvd., Quezon City, by telephone at 715-2077 (Administration) or 715-5170 local 113 (Student Affairs) or by e-mail at admissions@ccp.edu.ph. The list of successful scholarship applicants is posted on the CCP Admissions fan page accessible from Facebook. Distribution of questionnaires/ processing has begun, and the school year at CCP will start on Monday, June 13.

Readers react to 'Tiger Moms'

Shirley Duarte writes: "I am so bothered by Amy Chua's book. Did she soak up a conference to be able to tell it? I grew up in the 1950s when moms believed in the saying, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child'. I also learn a lot of life-saving lessons. I was not aware that punishment was the norm in disciplining Chinese kids.

"In this the season the Chinese criminal chanceries have been the way they do? (Here they like) that because they were not 'successful'?...I am glad I am Pinoy. I want my space, my kids want their space, my husband wants his space."

My reply: Chua's book continues to generate controversy. I agree with Fids Magdeo that their parents want their kids to excel because they believe that, with some pushing, their kids can do well. Chua goes into that rigor parenting is not just done by some Chinese-American parents, but also by Indian-American, Iraqi-American and, in fact, by determined parents of any race.

Generally, there is nothing wrong with encouraging kids to excel—unless the pushing becomes embarrassment to abuse.

I believe that so long as kids are doing well, even with all the pushing, then parenting can be effective. But when kids start rebelling or worse—lying, cheating, and acting irresponsibly—the street may be too gentle. As Gabby Concepcion points out, the price may not be worth it (though we can never tell what makes people go astray).

By the way, the question "Spare the rod and spoil the child" comes from Book of Proverbs 13:24 which states: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

What Rose likes from the Proverbs verse is, if parents do not punish their kids, then he/she will not flourish. In other words, parents should not hesitate to discipline their kids. Whether or not this is carried to exactly the object of controversy is Amy Chua's book.

Both wrong

Let Ike last word on (per) moms come from Mary Rhu Duran, who blogs at wordsfromcamu.wordpress.com. Thank you reader Rhu Duran for sending me her piece "Tiger Moms and Her Critics: Both Wrong."

Disaster says Chua and her critics are both wrong on one important point—something I stressed in the last column, when recounting my own parenting experiences with my child Rose. I said that even if I'm not sure doing my well economically, what was most important to him and to us parents were not grades but character.

My husband and I are proud of his high marks (of course, don't worry hard for them, and deserves them) but we love him more for his humor, his generosity, his kindness.

This is how Hanson puts it: "Missing from Amy Chua's work—and the comments of her critics—is any sense of a fuller purpose to human life. The measure of your parenting success is not what your child does or achieves, but what kind of person he or she becomes ... So what should successful parents strive to do?

+ Raise a child who is determined to be a good, moral human being.

+ Teach the child right from wrong, grounding her in the rules that limit and govern human behavior.

+ Teach her the virtues (habits of doing good).

+ Help him forge strong relationships built on love, service, and respect.

+ Help him orient his talents, decisions, and activities inside (outside) efforts. ("Be content, good") rather than selfish goals.

+ Model love, humility, forgiveness, and respect for all."

Wilson Go writes: "I like your three-part column on tiger mothers. Please forward to me the three parts so I can share them with my family and friends. Please keep on writing. Your articles help and motivate us all. More power.

My reply: Thank you for your kind words. The best way to forward my columns is to go to the Inquirer web site www.inquirer.net, find the article, and e-mail it to friends. Click on Inquirer Headlines and then Learning, and then the titles of my articles. Or type this URL: www.inquirer.net/inquirerheadlines/learning and search for the articles you need.

E-mail the author at bbm_book@yahoo.com.

How to make school supply shopping less stressful

SHOPPING for school supplies for the opening of classes is stressful, especially if budget is limited.

Pick as many brands in the market, parents have to make their money go a long way by making sure they get quality products.

Here are some tips from T.Pessil, the Trainer's Pessil, on how parents can be smart shoppers:

+ Don't just make a list, make a plan. List down essentials to avoid buying unnecessary items. Aptly type, quantity listed and even the price you are willing to pay by setting standards, you avoid unnecessary purchases.

+ Let your children involved in the planning. They can specify the color, design and style they want. T.Pessil, for instance, some is different sizes like the bombs, ideal for kids 4 years old below. Others are 3 pieces below grip. For kids aged 4-6, regular size. There is also a mechanical variant for students and professionals who want a pencil that does not need sharpening.

+ Review your list with your children. Group items according to the sections of the store where you will shop to avoid going back and forth. This is an opportunity to teach children about being organized.

+ Bring enough cash, with just a little extra in case there are good bargains you should not pass up. During just what you need will keep you from buying too expensive items or things that are not in the list.

+ Buy in bulk things that you know your kids will need again and again during the school year. The higher price you pay now will mean savings in the future and fewer trips to the store. Papers, pens, notebooks, crayons and pencils are some items that will be needed until during the school year.

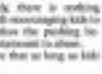
+ Select items that are guaranteed safe. Buy products that are only offer value for money, but are also safe for kids to use. The T.Pessil, does not only offer quality but a good price, but also remotely addresses to safety standards. Its materials are materials have been approved by the Department of Health. It is also ecofriendly as it uses color based solvent inks. "Guaranteed Harmless" and is the only pencil manufactured in the Philippines.

The T.Pessil is available in different kinds and shapes, including the T-Pencil for Kids, with Safety Pencil Cap to avoid disappear in the student hands from cute nine alloy and stainless steel blades. The two holes can sharpen both jumbo and regular pencils.

+ Do your shopping in the morning, when stores are not yet crowded, making sure you have a hearty breakfast before you go off. Starving early will give you time to check each item before buying. Read the labels, compare prices and look for quality. Involve your children in the shopping.

+ Organize your purchases when you get home so your children will know where to look for things they need. This will also help you keep track of supplies so you know when to replenish them.

Book finder



The Carrot Seed
By Ruth Krauss
Age group: 4-8

When a little boy plants a carrot seed, everyone tells him it won't grow. But when

years are over young, there are some things that you just know. The boy knows that one day a carrot will come up. So he waters his seed, pulls the weeds and waits...

The Emerald Atlas
By John Stephens
8-12

Kate, Michael and Emma have been in one orphanage after another for 10 years, passed along like lost luggage.

Yet these unwanted children are more remarkable than they could possibly imagine. Ripped from their parents as babies, they are being protected from a horrible evil they know nothing about.

Until now.

Before long, Kate, Michael and Emma are on a journey to dangerous and unreal corners of the world ... a journey of villains and treasures, of magic and mayhem. And—if no ancient prophecy is correct—what they do can change history. It is up to them to set things right.

The Emerald Atlas from Random House Children's Books, 384 pages, $16.99, ages 8-12

The Emerald Atlas by John Stephens

Trash
By Andy Mulligan
12 and up

In an unnamed Third World country, in the not-so-distant future, three "dumpsite boys" make a living picking through the mountains of garbage on the outskirts of a large city.

One unlucky day, Raphael finds something very special and very mysterious. So mysterious he decides to keep it, even when the city police offer a handsome reward for its return. That decision brings terrifying consequences, and soon the dumpsite boys must all their cunning and courage to stay ahead of their pursuers. It's up to Raphael, Gardo and Rat Boy—who call themselves collectively as parents, no homes and no money...to solve the mystery and right a terrible wrong.

Trash from Random House Children's Books, 304 pages, $16.99, ages 12 and up

Taking her UP education to heart

From page G1

"I kind of just forgot it because real life is different. When I went to the U.S., they didn't know (about my grades). I didn't want them to think I was bragging. That's why my husband didn't know that and my kids only know about it recently," Baron said.

True UP baby

Baron's connection to UP started at birth. Both her parents are from UP like lawyer father Miguel was a university scholar while her mother, Lucila Cruz, a pharmaceutical chemist, finished her masteral in pharmacy at UP.

Her brother John graduated valedictorian from the UP College of Medicine.

"My parents met in UP. They were married in UP. I learned how to walk in UP. I was baptized in UP. I learned to walk in the oval and learned how to run at Sunken Garden. It was all about UP for me," Baron recalled life in the UP Diliman campus.

After finishing high school as Ateneo de Davao's Valedictorian in Quezon City, she took the UP entrance examinations and was so confident she would pass the eight exams among tests she did not even consider any other university.

"Everybody in my family is from UP. I was demanded that both my children go to UP. If even my husband is from UP (he took up Economics). It was UP or nothing," said Baron.

Almost 30 years since she made UP history, the 50-year-old Baron is now making her own little personal history in a small clinic at the Las Piñas District's Hospital in Las Piñas City, Metro Manila.

She left a lucrative practice in an upscale hospital to serve those more in need.

Serving the U.S. market might have indeed her income but Baron said the decision greatly multiplied the "popular reward."

"I'm serving a sector of society that is not served by big medical centers. And it's pure service, which I got from UP," she said.

"My patients are mostly old. One patient told me, 'Dok (Ateneo, when we get to heaven, we will all welcome you.' It makes me happy knowing that all my patients die with clear vision," Baron said, chuckling.

She considers every patient appointment a rare opportunity to teach about general eye health and the still treatable glaucoma. She chose this field of specialization because of her family's medical history. Her herself is also afflicted with the disease. She leading cause of irreversible blindness in the country.

The eye doctor's fees depend on how much a patient can afford.

"If they really have no money), then I give the check up for free and I give medicine samples," Baron said.

Relatives and doctor friends in the US have been tugging her to move there and work. But the global tip hasn't hit her interest.

"Somebody has to stay here and man the fort to make sure people are healthy. Give up the dollars, the prestige. Maybe that's how UP molded us," Baron said.

"UP has given us so much and the country expects so much from us as in return. It's really about being an educator beyond. Some people have forgotten that. That's the UP spirit...not just brains, but also a big heart and the hand to serve," she said.

A soldier's story

From page G3

where to shoot. They ran of ammunitions. Cpl. Isidro Ani, discovered where the Japanese were hiding so he took an incendiary bomb, hauled it to his Garand rifle and fired at the enemy. The bomb hit its target and the enemies ran in all directions. We shot every enemy in sight. Though he was a sniper, he killed at least six Japanese ...

"Later that afternoon reinforcements from other Japanese camps arrived and we were outnumbered. A retreat was called by our general commander Major of our commander were left behind, including my friend Leonardo who was fatally wounded.

"More encounters followed after from to Bataan and our opponents were always in the Bataan."

As a guerrilla, he said, he was trained to value courage and strength and to exhibit resiliency even in the most grueling situation. But when shone in the dark of night at camp, he said he cried for his fallen comrades and friends.

"I believe," he said, "that we can bring on the worst in man."

Both sides committed atrocities during the occupation, he recalled. Filipino prisoners of war (POW) were subject to torture and killed. "The same was true for Japanese POWs captured by the guerrillas," he said.

Before the war ended in August 1945, Apung Isyang and their squadron fought in four battles to defend a Hanapepo near the Aetas mountain in Pampanga.

Not the enemy

Something was different this time. They did not realize they were shooting at Filipinos POWs. Apung Isyang said it explained why the "enemies" did not wear Japanese uniforms but were only in shorts and T-shirts.

The suspicion was confirmed when a man broke from the enemy line and ran toward the guerrillas. As the man neared, he recognized Emilio Mananquil, brother of the squadron mate Facundo Mananquil.

Shortly he also recognized his brother and had down his arms and saw to meet Emilio and embrace him. Facundo and his brother dropped to the ground to avoid the gunfire.

But Apung Isyang's comrade, Cpl. Santa Ana, thought Emilio was a Japanese soldier trying to kill Facundo. Santa Ana aimed at Emilio and he and her, Apung Isyang was able to stop him before any shots were fired.

Apung Isyang then urged his comrades to retreat. But two days after the Battle of Hanapepo, Apung Isyang was investigated for a possible court-martial.

His superiors alleged he committed high treason. His rifle showed he did not fire a single bullet, seemingly an indication of cowardice and of his attempt to aid the enemy.

His Kapampangan superiors blamed him for the failure in Bataan.

When Apung Isyang was told to explain himself, he said he was not guilty. He was by saying, "Nung bumitin ka la akeung sau na wala ibalang kasi da na ra ing kapwa da kaing Jepa (If I shoot them now, it is like I'm shooting at my fellow soldiers)," he said.

It is said that the men were POWs, made to fight for the Japanese under pain of torture or death.

He said it would have been a difference doing if they encountered the Filipino police. He would have gladly finished off all of them because they voluntarily joined the enemy without compulsion or threat.

"But the men we encountered in Bataan were our own men who needed our help, not our bullets. The real enemies were hiding in their trenches waiting to annihilate each other," he told his superiors.

After he explained himself, the officers from Laguna stood up and applauded him for his medals. The accusal, after a formal proceeding, found no probable cause to charge Apung Isyang with treason.

After the war, the Japanese were shipped back to their country to be tried for war crimes. Many of the POWs were released immediately. The POWs Apung Isyang's unit encountered in Bataan were grateful to him for saving their lives. Emilio Mananquil became Apung Isyang's best friend after the war.

His story made me realize that the measure of a hero was not always his skill in battle but his great heart to saving innocent lives.

English for law students and bar examinees

The Center for Global Best Practices will be conducting a seminar on "Mastering English for Law Students & the Examinees" May 24-25, at the Philippine Bible Hotel.

This is designed for students who fall like solved subjects and the bar examination because of their inability to write, express, and speak English clearly.

It is also intended as a performance booster for those who want to receive class or pass the bar.

Resource person is lawyer Jim V. Lopez, three-time winner of the National Book Award of the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board and author of "Judgment Proof: Philippine Asset Protection Law", "Alternative Dispute Resolution", "Real Law on Abandonment of Marriage", "Immigration Law" and, the latest, "How to Practice Law Like Perry Mason".

A 1978 graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law, he was vice-dean of the Ateneo College of Law (2001-2008) and is currently the director of legal programs at the Center for Global Best Practices.

Another lecturer, also a winner of the National Book Award, is Jose E. Castillo, author of "English Plain and Simple".

Visit www.cgbp.org or call 5668888/8166 (Manila) or (02) 8 122106 or 8122107 (Cebu).

'I'm *looking* forward *to* DOING *something* different'

FATHER BIENVENIDO with Ateneo high school students.

By Chato Banal Formoso

FR. BIENVENIDO Nebres is winding down his duties as president of Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), a post he has held for 18 years. "I'm looking forward to doing something different," he says. Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, SJ, succeeds him as president.

In a few days, Father Ben will be off to Europe to go on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. A well-deserved break, as everyone at AdMU will tell you, although when they tell you this they look forlorn, very worried.

What break? It will be a walking pilgrimage for the 71-year-old Jesuit, covering 500 kilometers from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela, the holy shrine that draws thousands of Catholics to Spain because it is where the remains of St. James are said to be buried. Father Ben starts his walk on June 1 and hopes to end it by July 7.

If anyone can walk that walk, it is Ben Nebres. He has planned his pilgrimage so that he can do it in a most organized and efficient way not unlike the way he ran AdMU and powered it to be among the premier education institutions in the country.

Having said that it is usually the hilarious that does pilgrims in, he has taken every precaution in his hiking boots. "The easiest is to wear two pairs of socks, as I've been told," he says. To keep his backpack light, he says, he will bring no laptop, not even an iPad. He will take photos and keep a journal using a good mobile phone. Instead of sleeping every night in an albergue (guesthouse), he has made arrangements to stay with local communities along the way, at Pamplona, Logroño, Burgos and Leon in Spain.

He has also been running around the 200-meter lighted indoor track at the Blue Gurnard Sports Center after his daily evening Mass. "I've been jogging since the 1970s," he says. Before the sports center was built, he would jog to the high school track, the Areostadio and jog back to his office. Running at the sports center has not only kept him fit but has also allowed him to keep in on the basketball, badminton and track teams that practice there.

The students who serve in college when he took over as AdMU president in 1993 now have children of their own who attend grade school, high school or college on campus. And the graduates of the succeeding years and the current batch and you end up with an army of Atenistas who cannot help the burgeoning of affection some sense of Manong Ben's retirement came out.

The traditional open house marked his 71st birthday last March 25. Not because it was going to be his last celebration with the Ateneo community as president, the festivities awaited endless. It has not, the launch of a book featuring his speeches and writings as Ateneo president, a booklet christened "Beatific," and a surprise celebration with his BFFs (best foreign friends) in attendance. "I was deeply touched by their coming," he says. "I know they made a very special effort to be here."

A Facebook page has been exquisite collect tributes and photos of students taken with Father Ben. One will be hard put to find a more approachable university president than Father Ben, judging by their wall of photos. Or camera-shy one embraced. The current batch of seniors created an Harry Potter, has taken to calling him their very own Dumbledore, after the Hogwarts headmaster in the international bestseller.

"I will miss the students," says Father Ben, pulling out a small card from his wallet to show a caricature of him done by a student.

Staggering growth

The current enrollment at AdMU is 6,300, with the management and social sciences courses getting the biggest number of enrollees.

Under Nebres, AdMU increased its undergraduate degree offerings by 32 courses. Even more staggering, the university added over 70 programs to its graduate studies menu, including the new master's programs in electronics engineering; environmental science; applied mathematics, major in mathematical finance; atmospheric science; Japanese studies and political science, major in global politics.

A first arts program where students can major in creative writing, theater arts, information design, or art management was also created because Filipinos have a lot talent and an interest in the arts.

Under his watch, too, AdMU started a whole new School of Government that delivered many of its programs onsite. "This year, we had graduations for provincial and municipal governments officials in Marawi, in Tacloc and in La Union," he notes.

A handsome building on Gregorio Araneta in Pasay began housing the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health in 2007. AdMU will graduate its first batch next year.

In his view, AdMU has done very well in management, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and, most recently, fine arts. But he feels the university needs to expand its offerings in the area of technology and lend its name to the very large area of the life sciences.

Re-branding

Nebres inspired the re-branding of Ateneo from "men and women for others" to "professionals for others" by using the university as laboratory for effecting social change, particularly in public education and governance and advocacies. (See interview on Page G7.)

Father Ben is happy that Ateneo's four professional schools—the Graduate School of Business, the Law School, the School of Government and the School of Medicine and Public Health—have spun-headed the leveling program called Filarplan for Better Learning. The program will expand an earlier program with Ateneo and will undertake the leveling of 4,000 school children in four public elementary schools in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City. To Father Ben, the program is one way of closing the gap between private and public education.

Also a source of pride for him are the social entrepreneurship programs where Ateneo business management graduates have helped in planning small businesses started by Grand Gallega villagers, such as Bagong Richer (ateneo says) and Happiness (Cari-sari store). "These are not charities, these are legitimate businesses," he is quick to point out.

Does he sometimes muse about what his life would have been like had he not become a priest? "No, no such musings for me," he says. "I'm quite happy where I am."

His father, Bienvenido Sr., a doctor, would have preferred a medical career for him. Looking back, I remember that my father would bring me to the summer medical conventions," he says. "It was only later that I realized he was trying to show me that a doctor's life wasn't so fun."

As his enthusiasm, he recalls, it was his father who was crying, not his schoolteacher-mother, the former Asuncion Hurtado.

Father Ben's successor, AdMU president, before was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, rector of the Loyola House of Studies, Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, and president of Xavier University in Mindanao. Same right or same years ago, he was asked to help out in Rome, but he asked for a reprieve because "we were going through some difficult challenges in some units here at Ateneo." He thought it would have been a difficult time to pass on the presidency to another Jesuit (the AdMU president is always a Jesuit).

"This is actually a good time," he says. "Everything is pretty much stable. I don't have to burden the next president with a big challenge. I feel father Villarin will have time to get to know the place and eventually decide what direction he will be important in the future."

Upon his return from his pilgrimage, Father Ben says he wants to do some writing. If his superiors will allow him, he says he will go back to teaching math and continue his work with the public schools.

AT LUNCH: Villarin (seated at 3r president AdMU alumnus and benefactor Manny V. Pangilinan, Blue Eagles coach Norman Black and the Eagles, including Chris Tiu (in purple shirt at right). Father Ben (at the bar for other university presidents after an InQuirer interview session (which he said he usually made time to attend the Eagles' games and even church in on them in practice.

#ITS for **BFFs** who came to surprise him on his 71st birthday: Dr. Nicole Perrot of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France; Dr. John Crossley of Monash University, Australia; and professor Lee Pang Yee of National Institute of Education, Singapore. To Father Ben's left is Ateneo's Padunge on Higher Education director Sylvia Pilato-Lee.

alma matter

Where Father Nebres went to school (grade school - Escuelas Elementary Ateneo) & to (when)

High school - Vigan Seminary (Vigan) and San Jose Seminary (Quezon City)

Maristas & College (1 year) - Second Hand College (Novaliches)

All Classics & Philosophy - Jesuit Scholasticate, Berchmans College (Cebu City)

MS and PhD (3) in Mathematics - Stanford University (California, USA)

Exit interview with Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ

From page G1

"back and forth process" over several years that finally brought them together into what we have now.

The core business of a university is research and teaching. What has Ateneo added to the equation?

I think we have added the question: Research for what and for whom? Teaching students toward excellence for what and for whom?

As you know, we have the motto of "men and women for others." Ateneo has moved it beyond to "professionals for others," meaning that we ask our students, particularly to do some projects, to show as excellence in their field, be it psychology, mathematics or business, and what difference it and they can make for our people and our country.

I am delighted that we have more and more outstanding examples of business students creating successful social enterprises, students in the arts using drama, music and dance to reach self-confidence and give hope to teenagers in Gawad Kalinga communities, students in science and engineering developing technologies that would benefit poor rural communities, etc. For research, doctors has been putting more resources into research that engage central concerns of our country, notably [unit] and engineering and environmental risk analysis and management.

As the university's priorities have shifted and evolved, what remains timeless to Ateneo?

Ateneo is a Jesuit school and Jesuit schools were founded on the Humanistic tradition. It is a tradition of excellence. Our desire is to give an opportunity for our students to discover their gifts and seek to be the best that they can be in them. But beyond that it is a tradition of excellence in service ... What is also timeless in Ateneo is the drive to engage the nation and, in particular, the major challenges of each particular generation: independence from Spain in the time of Rizal, martial law in the 1970s.

What would you like her every student to come away with after four or five years in Ateneo?

To take to heart our desire for them to be "professionals for others," excellent in their chosen field, but continuing to ask themselves how their excellence can make a difference for others in greater need.

On personal leadership, I tell them this one gift I would wish for them is to feel them to learn to appreciate self [illegible]. We live our lives in concentric circles. There are the inner circles of work, inner and social engagements. There is the inner circle of the inner self, family and God. I remind them that they should keep close to their inner circle, and if they are criticized, not to take it personally. It usually has to do with a decision or action taken. If they are in positions of power, not to let power get into their heads. Let the circles themselves always that their sense of self-worth should come from their inner circle.

Did your visions for Ateneo materialize?

I think so. When I came to Ateneo in 1993, the overall challenge was how to help Ateneo close two gaps. One is the competitiveness gap—how do we catch up with our very aggressive developing neighbors? The other is the poverty gap—how do we close the gap between ourselves and the less privileged?

We pushed different units to benchmark. Our grade school said high school let's get to benchmark with Singapore, particularly in science and math. We also instituted a junior term abroad and got more and more students to spend one semester in Japan, Europe, Australia and the US. We are happy since it became sure the students realize the kind of world they'll be going into, they understand why you push them to a certain level.

On the poverty gaps, the biggest thing we do is the work with the public schools. Of course we work with Gawad Kalinga, with Synergeia Foundation, and we have the book program.

What would you like to see happen in the future to our education system?

For me the biggest challenge to education in the Philippines is in the public elementary and high school system. Out of 2.4 million pupils who enter first grade every year, 800,000 drop out by third grade and 400,000 do not finish sixth grade.

We should really work to achieve Millennium Development Goal No. 1, which is universal primary education by 2015. We won't make it in 2015, but we should make the highest priority.

Less than half (less than 1.2 million) finish high school. We should work to bring this up to 80 percent.

EDUCATION MATTERS

TECHNICAL COURSES

More than just an alternative education

By Marie D. Salazar

TECHNICAL COURSES can also open great employment opportunities to graduates. Many of them have gone abroad because there's a demand for skill-based workers while the others have chances to open their own shops in the country.

Thousands of graduates remain unemployed or underemployed because they were stuck with the courses they took which have very little demand for workers. Worrying, for instance, was once a lucrative career because of overseas opportunities but the employment needs have already swelled up. The market is already saturated.

On the other hand, car manufacturing companies like Honda have to partner with Don Bosco Technical Institute (Makati) as it is highly skilled technicians which the company brings to its plants in Latin America and the Middle East.

Lawyer Teodoro Pascua, deputy director general for field operations of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), believes that some students should take a second look at these technical courses.

Pascua also laments the perception that technical courses are lowly courses and are meant only for those who are not bright enough to take a full four-year course.

Perhaps, one of the most successful technical courses is that Tesda and other schools offer is Automotive. Looking at the number of jobs abroad for road, there is surely a demand of automotive going to car repair shops every day.

Pascua said some of their graduates have been absorbed by car companies.

"What people overlook is the level of competency skill-based graduates develop," Pascua said. Not everyone knows how to fix his car, repair or does some electrical wiring in the house, or even sew his own dress. Even fashion designers have to know dressmaking to bring to life their own creations.

Pascua said some schools that are producing highly skilled and employable graduates. One is the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati and the Institute of Mary in Cavite.

According to Pascua, "Don Bosco's high school department is quite interesting and free. The latter is more on technical education. What's good about it is the teachers are highly technical and highly skilled."

Sisters of Mary is more on charity work but the thing that distinguishes them from the others is the automotive. It gives to skill based courses in high school despite limited resources, according to Pascua, cuts only for three years because the students don't go for a break. But the curriculum is not shortened either.

"About 90 percent of its female graduates and 75 to 77 percent of male graduates are employed after graduation," Pascua said.

Pascua said that Tesda is also looking at bringing back agriculture and fishing at the elementary level back into the curriculum loop which also makes sense because the Philippines is an agricultural country and an archipelago at that.

"The problem is when the farmers retire, who will take care of the land?" Pascua asked. "And when the marine resources are consumed, who will replenish them?"

Pascua said that they plan to bring the school to the provinces. "If we structure a certain number of people in a province here to cultivate fish then we have produced people who are trained in fisheries," he said.

He also said that there are many idle lands waiting to be tapped. Even homeowners in the provinces can grow vegetables not just for their own consumption but also for trade.

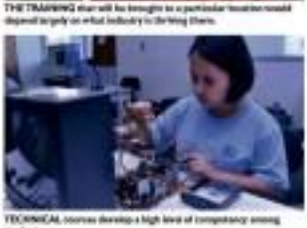
Another program that Tesda uses is in cooperating entrepreneurship in all its courses. "I live in that province. Give me a fish you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, you feed him for life."

Tesda also does profiling and matching of its graduates. "While the students are studying, there is already an application waiting for them," Pascua said. However, he clarifies that it's not a sure employment but an application. "The employers still has the last say who to employ or not."

Pascua is also looking at having a "Tesda on Wheels" that will go to different provinces to train people for at least three

MORE ON P2

THE TRAINING that will be brought to a particular location would depend largely on what industry is thriving there.



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The Rise of Rice

Pinoys eat rice every day. So it should come as no surprise that a Pinoy is one of the leading scientists to have identified and isolated nine (9) specific breeds of rice at an international institute based in the Philippines.

His discoveries have helped to prevent famine in much of Asia starting in the 1960's up to this time.

Is it possible that this scientific Pinoy used a pencil also made by Filipinos when he was doing his work?

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During the EDSA Revolution of 1986, only one pencil was made in the Philippines by Filipinos. It was used to make out lists, write notes, take messages and record memories. Today, 25 years later, there is still only one pencil made by Filipinos. This pencil now goes by the name T-PENCIL.

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THE KING OF SING ALONG

Long before the karaoke and the videoke, a Pinoy invented an electric keyboard that was an organ that was a horn that was a violin that was a whole band in one music machine! People called it the "one-man-band" because it gave off a complete band sound. (Drums included!) playing just one piano-like machine. Any singer could enjoy a whole band as back-up with just one instrument.

He may not have noticed that his cheap ideas may have been written with a pencil made by Filipinos too!

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What every high school senior should know

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By Jing Lajaste

The path to success

THERE ARE different roads to a bright future. Here's what every high school senior should know.

How do you see yourself ten years from now? This is the one question that every high school senior should be strolling past about soon.

With college only a year away, it is time for every young soon to think about his future. Ten years from now would make him about 27 or 28, where will he be? Will he be leading his own company, owning an outlet one to-scooter product after another? Or will he be in the ranks of management, steering the company towards greatness? Will he be building roads and bridges? Or will he be writing songs and painting pictures?

Figure it out

Socrates lived by two simple words, "Know thyself." His other guiding principle is no relevant to the high school senior. Before he picks out any of the above dream scenarios, he must ask himself, "What is it that he really wants? What is it that he really loves? What is it that will make him get up every morning of every day for the rest of his life?" Because yes, as scary as that sounds, that's exactly how long you'll be in that dream scenario of yours—the rest of your life.

Get real

"And to thine own self be true" is Shakespeare's witty reply to Socrates. Now, ask yourself, are you any good at that thing that you really love doing? What kind of training do you need to become the best at your game? What kind of skills do you need to have to come out on top? Only when you've made an honest assessment of your skills and talents can you draw your game plan.

Hit the road

Based on the above-foreseen scenarios, let's look at the different colleges that may be able to help you live the life you've always wanted. Here, we turn to Planning Ahead, A Guide to Metro Manila's Private Colleges and Universities. Published by Ahead Tutorial and Review Center, it gives students and parents a comprehensive view of the country's best universities. Both courses offerings, facilities, and requirements.

The thinker

Nancy yourself holding court at a corner office, singing corporate woes as your overseas subtle providing gainful employment to your brethren? Then the Ateneo de Manila University may spur your heart lies. The Jesuit run university has a strong Bachelor of Science Management program under the John Gokongwei School of Management. But some that having daily managers, the Ateneo graduate is usually employable outside studies.

From Planning Ahead: "The Loyola schools aim to form productive citizens in both national and international contexts. This whole-ness is rooted in their native culture, proactive within the global culture, imbued with the scientific spirit and the values of professionalism, and strongly committed to a faith that does justice."

The engineer

De La Salle University graduates are great at crafting things together. Indeed, Planning Ahead states that DLSU stresses the distinction of being the only Center of Excellence in Chemical and Mechanical Engineering. It has consistently topped the national board examinations in engineering and accountancy. The College of Computer Studies under the DLSU Professional Schools is the country's acknowledged leader in computer science.

The revolutionary

Whether he's running for office, making a career out of his abstract paintings, or managing his own fast-growing enterprise, the University of the Philippines graduate is never afraid to rock the boat.

From Planning Ahead: "The core of the University of the Philippines' undergraduate curriculum is the General Education program that molds critical minds, grounds academic work in Philippine culture, and reimagines the nation's past to enlighten us of the future to be under the heritage's wisdom. The GE program educ-sources that UP produces leaders who, to the confidence of power, will exhibit sensitivity to the socio-cultural dimensions, the political impact, and the environmental harm that remain open of technology may bring."

Courses that matter

THERE WAS a surge in Nursing enrollment the past few years but the employment is now saturated leaving some graduates either unemployed or underemployed. The trend is continuously changing. Once, courses in computers ruled the universities, then nursing and now culinary arts. The unpredictability of the trend can sometimes lead to mass unemployment.

Source: Inquirer Research

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Scholars receive hotel training for free

SM Foundation aims to provide basic training and exposure to deserving young individuals

By Kennett M. deVillaviza

THEY MAY not have had the chance to pick up cooking degrees for themselves—or at least not yet—but these young individuals are hoping—and proving—that there are other avenues to acquire needed education and skills to start a career they can be proud of.

One of them is 21-year-old Leony Ordiba, who was able to graduate from high school but was denied to go on hold the dream of taking up business management because his family didn't have the money for it.

"For a while after graduating from high school I wasn't sure where I'll be heading in life, especially because I knew there was a slim chance for me to get into college," said Leony in Filipino. Oldest of her children, with farmers as parents, the pressure to help provide for the family rests on Leony's shoulders.

Fortunately for the young lady, she was given a chance to undergo a "hotel training" sponsored by the SM Foundation and the Sual Vista Hotels, Tagaytay.

The 30-day "SM Foundation Scholars' Training Program" aims to provide basic training and exposure to qualified candidates at Sual Vista Hotel (as endorsed by SM Foundation) who are hand-picked from four barangays (Bolilao, Calasiao, Lasac, and Pogonsi) in Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

The month-long hands-on training teach the young individuals, aged 18 to 21, skills in different fields such as housekeeping, food and beverage service, food and beverage kitchen training, and engineering.

Leony is one of the 30 individuals who belong to the second batch of SM Foundation scholars who have undergone the training. Another group of 30 trained last February to March. The second batch will finish their course before the month of May ends.

"With the training we are getting, I am now more confident that I'll find a stable job after this," she said. "My dreams are well and alive again."

Cristie Angeles, SMF for livelihood of the SM Foundation, in charge of the scholars' program, knowing as they 20 out of the 30 individuals that trained are now working as full-time employees at Peninsula, the newest hotel in the upscale Pico de Loro cove in Nasugbu.

"It's almost time to see these children graduate by leaps and bounds, considering that many of them haven't entered a hotel or even step on an airport before," Angeles said.

"By good thing about this training, Angeles said, is that after the 30-day program, the scholars would undergo the Skills Assessment under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). Should the trainees receive the Tesda national certificate, they will be eligible to work anywhere in the country or even overseas.

"They have no obligation to work for SM or Sual Vista Hotels or Peninsula," Angeles said. "After the program, the scholars are free to look for jobs that they see fit to their newly acquired skills."

Aside from undergoing the 30-day program, the scholars also get free food and housing benefits, courtesy of the SM Foundation.

One of the 25 scholars from the first batch of trainees is 22-year-old Jordan Galicinao, who is now working at Peninsula, the luxurious hotel that is part of the Pico de Loro development in Hamilo Coast located in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Jordan started working as a waiter in Peninsula as soon as he finished their 30-day training at Sual Vista Hotel. Asked to reflect his first salary ever, he said he used it to pay for the tuition fee of his brother in the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) in Manila. Jordan didn't get to finish the freshman year he took several years ago, he hopes to save enough fund for this so he could finish his college studies.

"We're very thankful for what the foundation, Sual Vista Hotel, and Peninsula, has taught us," he said. "It's so much for those giving us chance at a decent work. It probably just be at home right now doing nothing. We couldn't ask for more."

Angeles said: "The SM Foundation remains committed to helping improve the lives of deserving people in the communities where SM operates. As long as they are determined to help themselves, we are here to guide and help them."

Pencil for Your Thoughts?

What is your creative process? We all have different ways of breaking concepts and birthing ideas, but one thing holds true for all: more than "Eureka!" moments' finally arrives, there is no feeling like it to be a creative. Ideas birth much power for the thinker who conjures it at the right time and the right place. It can ignite, inspire and influence in the most unexpected of ways (or none, included).

Did you know that there is a pencil especially crafted for the thinker and the creative process? The Research Pencil (or T-Pencil) is a locally-produced pencil designed for those pleasurable moments of creating. Proudly the only Philippine-made pencil, the T-Pencil is produced by the Chung Fu Trading Corporation (CFTC), a locally-owned and distributor, Amalgamated Specialties Corporation (AMSPEC) is the name group behind Chung Fu.

Having been manufacturing pencils over the last 30 years, AMSPEC has continuously been on an ongoing quest for better creation. Pencil lore thickens and we both have different versions of the T-Pencil for various uses. The pencil is available in No. 1 and No. 2 (hard for using writing, both of which are 100% carcinogen-available, and No. 3 (for sketching and outlining) variants, and it is satin and non-toxic. And because thinkers spend long periods of time brainstorming or thinking, it is also made in a triangular shape that allows for more balanced and comfortable writing, particularly for left-handed people.

Of course, keeping in mind that even the little ones can write the world with their unique ideas, the T-Pencil also has unique versions for kids like Black Jumbo T-Pencils (for kids ages 4 and below) and the T-Pencil FOR KIDS (for kids ages 5-7). These versions are more eco-friendly as it is made out of cedar wood and its jumbo size makes writing easier for beginners.

With such a unique creation behind it, the T-Pencil guarantees superior quality thanks to reputable recognized pencil brands definitely making it one of those products that inspire pride in locally-made goods. Currently the only brand in the market given the quality seal of approval by the Department of Health (which guarantees that all materials used in the product are safe), the T-Pencil's graphite (lead) and eraser are completely non-toxic, the only Philippine-made pencil for thinkers is a valuable staple for all sorts of creators—how-writers, cartoonists and fashion designers, engineers, architects and more (obviously).

Thanks to the T-Pencil's outstanding ability to unleash that modern creativity, almost naturally and every thinker can attest to this, the process has enabled them to get their creative juices flowing and come out with extraordinary concepts. The simple-sense of nature-naturally making on a pencil is helping it against the dark artistic deep-in thought, or sharpening other technical terms—ought for strong lines are all part of the magical process, and thanks graphite-ness for the thinker as he or she indulges in their little habits.

That being said, having a pencil designed for every thinker makes perfect sense. It goes without saying that creative ideas come to life in the unlikeliest of situations, with the thinker sometimes even taking no notice of coming up with it. For some people, it starts with a passing thought or a random conversation with someone, and for others, it begins with the moment we think.

Yes, no matter your age, sparks conceived by when you think with a pencil, and this is why the T-Pencil is a must-have for those in the profession of "creating" and even young kids who just like to let their imaginations run wild.

More than just an alternative education

From page B1

months. The training that will be brought to your make location would depend largely on what industry is thriving there.

If there is a stream of property development in one location, Tesda will train people on plumbing, electrical wiring, and other skills in construction. If there are more robots in the factories in one province, then the trainees will teach electronics and computer programming.

Pascua said that the Philippines is being considered by some foreign companies in ship building and if that happens, there will be a demand for welders. "But it's not just welding," he said. "There are welders who specialize in tungsten, metal, and even underwater welding."

It is because the point that skilled-based courses are not "simple" courses but also need expertise.

The same is demand courses that Tesda recently set: automotive, welding, machining (heavy equipment), carpentry, mining, oil, and even technology (with the proliferation of ipas and a boost in health and wellness, the demand for this is increasing).

There is a demand for skill-based courses in other countries too, more especially in the field of automotive.

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School is in at Eastwood City

THE BEST gift parents could ever give their children is the gift of education. The school, as a second home, provides an avenue for proper learning, space for growth and maturity, and holistic formation, in love with this, Eastwood City extends its hands to parents who aspire to give their kids the best that life can offer.

With this, Eastwood Mall recently launched the Pre-School Fair and the Back-to-School Fair. The Pre-School Fair will run from May 10 to 23, at 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Eastwood Mall Atrium. It will showcase top nurseries and preschools in the country which are ready to offer best primary learning for little kids. Parents can learn the schools' curriculum and inquire about their various programs by talking to school administrators personally in each of the booths. Some of the participating schools such as Gymboree, Reedley International School, and Kids Brain Creative preschool, among others.

Parents will also hear first hand stories from school representatives, who are parents or grandparents of kids enrolled in the participating preschools during the culminating program on May 23, 1 p.m.

And to get kids in the right school grooves, the Back-to-School Fair follows after from May 23 to 28, at the third and fourth level of Eastwood Mall. The fair will exhibit the latest, coolest and newest school supplies in time for the classes officially start.

So there's no excuses to get the kids back to school season not at Eastwood Mall. For more information, call the Concierge at 709-8888 or 09157-8288111. You can also like fans on Facebook.com/eastwood city. Visit quick updates by following twitter.com/eastwoodcity.

ADF+Enderun s fifteen-month program

Provides real world-class culinary instruction

ALAIN DUCASSE, one of the most celebrated of modern French chefs, is one of the rare chefs to the prestigious Michelin Guide's twenty-four restaurants carrying three-star ratings in the world. He is the owner of Alain Ducasse au Plaza Athénée in Paris, and Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester in London. He established Alain Ducasse Formation (ADF) in 1999 to emphasize his culinary methods and to provide a distinguished, continuously renewed training.

In 2007, ADF formed an academic partnership with Enderun Colleges in the Philippines called ADF+Enderun, and chefs across groundbreaks and travels to elevate culinary education the country and in Southeast Asia.

At the heart of the ADF+Enderun teaching philosophy is theory, demonstration, and practice. The Enderun Culinary Center, where all culinary classes are held, adheres to this philosophy. Built in collaboration with ADF, it meets the international standards in culinary-training facilities. The building houses two kitchen laboratories, a pastry kitchen laboratory, a preparation kitchen, and a culinary amphitheater. Enderun also offers the most extensive collection of culinary titles and periodicals per laboratory class. This serves as an approach to culinary education ensures that students acquire mastery of the subject from theory to practice.

Enderun students have been given the rights to pursue opportunity to take their knowledge in ADF training centers and even visited Alain Ducasse restaurants worldwide to observe the operations personally. To date, Enderun has sent seventeen students for internships in various Alain Ducasse restaurants and kitchen. Europe's Finishing Touch is the latest addition to Enderun's list of participating schools.

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The college that prepares students for real jobs

LONDON FOR a school that will really educate and prepare your son and daughter for real jobs? London for Life. Located along 31st street at the corner of 2nd Avenue in the Bonifacio Global City in Global City Business College, a higher education institution established in 2003 with a clear objective of preparing the young for real jobs.

Known as "the Yellow Building," Bonifacio Global City International College offers a number of courses covering the fields of arts and sciences. Undergrad programs include BS Hospitality Management (with Culinary Arts or Cruise Management track options), BS Tourism Management, BS Information Technology, BS Business Administration (Major in Marketing Management, Major in Financial Management), BS Accountancy, BS Office Administration (Major in Early Childhood Education, Special Education, or English), Diploma courses like Associate in Computer Technology, Associate in Hotel and Restaurant Technology (Advanced), and BS Medical Technology.

The school, which is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, also offers an 8-month Professional Diploma in Culinary Arts or 14-day Professional in Culinary Arts course. Entry-level Bachelor's degree holders can also enroll in the Graduate Diploma in Culinary Arts course.

Apart from the Global Main Campus in BGC, the school has two satellite learning facilities: The Global International Subic (GIS) located along Kalayaan Avenue in SBCC, which serves as the Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts facilities of Global Main Campus. The Global Culinary Arts in the SE Metropark Egan Experience Center (in partnership with Subic) is located at the 2nd floor of Seaside, BGC, serves as a satellite kitchen facility.

"Our teachers come with their expertise," Benitez remarks, "and they're not only from the Philippines. We have 20 nationalities." To the end of the course, students receive a certificate from a recognized institution.

"Our best endorsers are our students who have graduated," Benitez says.

There may be others who claim to offer similar courses, but they do not have BGC's rock heritage that dates back to the 1930s when it was founded by John Hay Peterson. Known as the U.S. government's resettling agency for Filipinos who needed a resettling agency for Filipinos who needed a permanent home, it continues to provide opportunities for Filipinos to acquire the skills," Padilla says. It is a unanimous decision, to continue to this mission of discovering skill hygiene service and permanent job.

Enrollment is ongoing. Attached Powercard holders are located in the 4th floor Cinema Bldg., 100 Bonifacio St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; tel. no. 893-9511 ground floor Goldenville Bldg., 826 Arnaiz, QC; tel. no. 527-9460; 2nd flr. 2nd Cir. Bldg., 1300 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City; tel. no. 892-4700; Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City; tel. no. 850-9063. For more information, visit www.globalcite.ph.com-education.

A gift of confidence

ITEMS may well be the best gift you can give your child: self-confidence. If only it was something that could be bought off the shelf. Anyone is after a sensitive nature of a lack of confidence, a case of low self-esteem. "Even older people have shyness issues," says Eva Domingo, Ateneo Executive Powercards Review. "Usually, it was in recent back or a traumatic experience is childhood."

Domingo shares her own personal experiences. As a young adult, she went through a painful shell doubt. "I felt the pressure building up and one day, that thought I was exploding. There was no help to talk. I was praying and I asked God that no one would notice me, but it would almost everything myself."

Mr. Kevin Jones then so called Mr. Jim crisis, and lately, we've been told over the counters like this one. Now, I'm not going to go more go through their own life crisis.

They experience separation changes in their body as they go through puberty. They find their self-esteem and confidence and their parents' high expectations.

They have to deal with peer pressure and the desire for social acceptance. They're probably have no time their dedicated hours alone as an adolescent.

"The JSP curriculum based experience helps kids to take to achieve among areas of who they are and how to relate with the people," says JSP Powercards Review, Marilou Padilla-Tuazon. "The courses are progressive in nature, building on one strength to the next."

While it may start with the rational, such as image enhancement, posture, gestures, facials and makeup, at the core it is all is personality development and personal growth. If you look good, naturally you'll feel good about yourself. Which in turn makes you will confidence.

Can confidence be taught? "You can make them understand where they don't learn. Sometimes, they cannot accept it as an act of kindness," Ateneo says. "When I talk about my own experience they are able to take it without pain. We help them recognize their own potential, so in the best that they would be. It's all about communication."

The JSP curriculum is unique. It is flexible and adaptable to all age groups and environments. All classes have an item is supported by hand-on materials that may be retained by the students. The students are assessed on their competencies and use of the materials, skills are reviewed on a regular basis. There is interest, motivation and easier retention. They have certified psychologists and life coaches.

"Our teachers come with their expertise," Benitez remarks, "and they're not only from the Philippines. We have 20 nationalities." To the end of the course, students receive a certificate from a recognized institution. "Our best endorsers are our students who have graduated," Benitez says.

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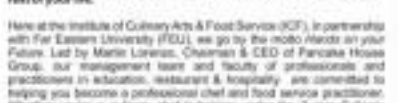


Picking a course for college shouldn't be taken lightly. It's a decision that will affect you, not just 4 or 5 years later, but for the rest of your life.

Here at the Institute of Culinary Arts & Food Service (ICF), in partnership with Far Eastern University (FEU), we go by the motto *Hands on your Future*. Led by Marilen Lorenzo, Chairman & CEO of Pancake House Group, our management team and faculty of professionals and practitioners in education, restaurant & hospitality are committed to helping you become a professional chef and food service practitioner. Whether you're a culinary chef-in-training under the 2-year Culinary Chefs Training Program (CCTP) or a baking chef-in-training of the 8-month Baking & Pastry Chefs Training Program (BPCTP), all roads lead to you becoming a master-chef with ICF@FEU.

Short courses in the Continuing Education Training Programs (CETP) include Basic Cooking, Baking & Pastry 101, Food Styling & Plating Techniques, Bartending & Mixology, Nutrition & Healthy Cuisine, and many more. These specially designed courses for personal and professional development offer flexible schedules (weekends & nighttime) fit for entrepreneurs, homemakers, and students from at weeks of life. Even palates as young as 5 to 15 are trained in the all year round ICF Kiddie Chefs League.

Our classes vary from month-to-month but our commitment remains the same - firing up your passion for food and enriching your business sense for a better kitchen and a better world.

Take the first step to the culinary world of endless possibilities. Come visit us at ICF@FEU Makati campus, corner of San Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia) and Mabagay Street, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City and have a taste of what we do at Loop Creative Dining, our student's training restaurant right beside the campus.

Call ICF@FEU at 894-3773 or visit our website: www.icf-feu.com.ph.

Get a degree through PWU's ETEEAP

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University now on its 92nd founding anniversary and operating under autonomous status is offering Eteeap (Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program) credited by the Commission on Higher Education.

Definition says "delivery system of learning acquiring skills gleaning through matching the present level curricular with actual work experiences. The program is especially designed for employees and other adults who have undergone training and fulfilled in desire of getting a college diploma to their professional growth and advancement.

The applicant, as stipulated by CHED, must be 30 years of age and has two or more years of work experience in a subject area related to the course program and completed the training required.

As present, the CHED-deputized programs in PWU are Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Advertising, History and Industrial Design and Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

To date, some 42 professionals in these fields and related disciplines have taken and successfully earned their degrees, among them are news anchor Ces Drilon, comedienne Dina Bonnevie, Cory Quirino and Carrie Martin, journalist Samuel Pamintuan and Edgar Figueroa of Mondial's Food Dining.

Evaluating the interview skills of candidates for Eteeap is Atty. Ma. Lourdes Lorenzo, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Measurement and Evaluation Jesus Dozor and Philosophy in Sociology and Anthropology as co-chair at the University of the Philippines.

He also recently appointed by CHED member by Dr. Patricio Lorenzo as member of the Technical Panel for Eteeap for 2011 to 03. "His appointment," PWU President Dr. Francisco Benitez said, "reflects PWU's commitment in providing alternative learning system in the Philippines." (Source: Mabuhay)

FEU-East Asia College: A college that promotes true education

Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Presenting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s principle of true education, FEU-East Asia College is proud to call to be character development and development of many. Then, they sacrifice walks in a classroom and opens into a local line for true dimensions of the success and achievement of every student.

With this in mind, FEU-East Asia College helps its students achieve excellence in every aspect of life. Two of this commitment are exceptional students, Jan Mari Milano, Sean Lester Mendoza and Lexi Lorenzo Lee.

Humility and perseverance were Jan Mari Milano's keys to success as he bagged numerous awards in Powerlifting. Besides the gold medal in the 2010 Philippine Open Powerlifting Championship for the 67.5kg weight division, he was also able to win three national records and three international records. He even broke the record of the "Philippine's Strongest Man." Despite the success and dedication he exerted to his field, Jan's parents are his commendation as he graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Computer Engineering.

Armed with academic excellence and outstanding leadership, Sean Lester Mendoza produced the prestigious Most Noble Student—the Philippines award. A true epitome of Noble qualities, Mendoza's commendable leadership is not only confined for the campus but to the external community as well. His excellence in academics is reflected in his candidacy for graduation in Industrial Engineering, with an impressive Latin honor attained in his course.

Passion, expertise and dedication are the qualities inculcated in Lorenzo Lee as he emerged the overall Valedictorian (Professional Arts). This award, which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education and the globe, is given to individuals that must demonstrate uncommon brilliance, competitive, civic commitment and contributions the community was apparent in his award as the first Microsoft Student Partner and the youngest of the kind. Apart from the recognition of the prestigious Microsoft, he is also a bestselling BSCS student using his curriculum upon graduation.

The goal of FEU-East Asia College is to promote excellence which encompasses not just for academic aspect but also the holistic excellence of every. Ken, More than just the training and development in itself for College students, the character, skills and potential development of every Tamaraw other than the College because one. Jan Mari Milano, Dan Lester Mendoza and Lexi Lorenzo Lee are just some examples of FEU-East Asia College's commitment to true education.

KMBI

"One of the key economic sectors that continue to strengthen our economy is the vibrant informal sector. This is represented by sari-sari stores, food carts, pedicab drivers, market vendors and barkadas that we patronize every day. Though this is referred to as the grassroot economy, it comprises 44% of the total GDP – a valuable contribution from an underestimated group. This is commonly operated by women microentrepreneurs who have limited financial assistance and are vulnerable to financial and economic changes. It is for them and this sector that **KMBI** exists.

KMBI (Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay, Inc.) champions the cause of entrepreneurial poor women. This is by providing them with additional business capital, enterprise capacity training and character formation programs. From 37 clients in a short room in Valenzuela City in 1998, it has now grown as one of the leading microfinance NGO, serving 258,000 women microentrepreneurs through its 71 branches nationwide. In Cebu province alone, it has four branches (KMBI Lapu-lapu, KMBI Mandaue, KMBI South and KMBI North) serving almost 15,000 women microentrepreneurs.

On May 17 to 20, KMBI will gather some 1,200 women microentrepreneurs and staff for the **4th LEaD (Leadership Enhancement and Development)** Camp at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. With the theme "Level Up Next Generation" taken from John 15:1-32, this camp ushers participants to a deep commitment to fulfill KMBI's vision of holistic transformation by affecting and influencing their own families.

Outstanding leaders shall speak on the following plenaries: Dr. Philip Flores shall expound on the camp theme "Level Up Next Generation", Dr. Blesilda Reis shall speak on the role of women in development in "Pag-angat ko, Sabay ng Bayan Ko". Atty Rowena Mendoza on the other hand shall focus on the "Power of Synergy" as it relates to people empowerment, and Pastor Niki Saquing Jr. shall deliver the keynote address based on the camp theme.

The Camp program provides learning tracks for participants on the areas of personal and family well being, work skills enhancement and current market trends led by the following experts: Mr. Eduardo Jimenez, Dr. Violeta Bautista, Dr. Amarylis Torres, Dr. Gloria Jimenez, Rev. Philip Tarriga, Dr. Jonathan Kasonso, Mr. Paleu Kloudian, Pastor Jako Barrazate, Ms. Michelle Cavallo, among others. Also, a special night of music focused on holistic transformation will be held featuring the 4HG band and acclaimed song writer and singer Mr. Gary Granada.

This event is supported by Country Bankers Life Insurance Corp., Waterfront Hotel and Casino, BPI Foundation, COCOLIFE, Landbank of the Philippines, Design Plus, RISLA Collections, UCPB and Worklink. The Lead Camp 2011 event is part of KMBI's yearlong 25th year anniversary celebration.

KMBI continues its remarkable service to Filipina microentrepreneurs and farmers by providing holistic transformation opportunities to realize it's vision of saving people live a fruitful and progressive life.

KMBI. Leveling up for the Next Generation.

KMBI

KMBI presents

LEAD CAMP 2011

LEAD CAMP

LEVEL UP! NEXT GEN

2011

17-20 MAY 2011

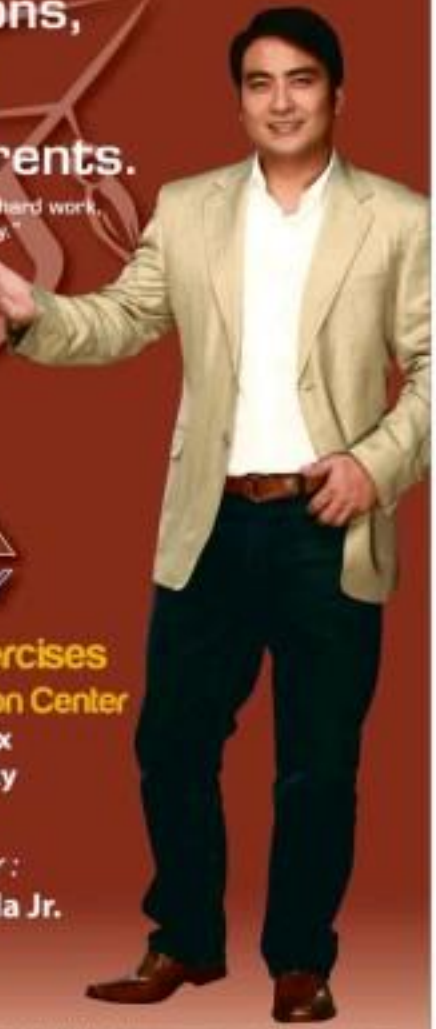
AT THE GRAND BALLROOM, WATERFRONT HOTEL, LAHUG, CEBU CITY

SPONSORED BY: Country Bankers Insurance Group, Waterfront Hotel & Casino, BPI Foundation, Inc., DesignPlus, LANDBANK, RISLA Collections, WorkLink, UCPB, COCOLIFE

"Congratulations, AMAzing graduates and parents.

After years of determination, patience and hard work, you have come to this wonderful day."

Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.



AMA UNIVERSITY

2011 Commencement Exercises

Philippine International Convention Center

Plenary Hall - CCP Complex

Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

May 16, 2011 • 8:30 a.m.

Commencement Speaker :

Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

My warmest greetings and most heartfelt congratulations to the graduating batch of 2011 of AMA. Each of you possesses a resource vital to our country's economic and complex transformation – the inherent creativity and ingenuity of the Filipino. We are confident that, raised as you were on a culture of excellence, you have grown into able, responsible citizens eager for new possibilities of learning and mindful of your duties to your fellowmen. Remember, as you set forth into the world that we are here not to do what is easy, but to do what is right. And the rest of the nation looks forward to standing alongside you, new graduates, as we welcome a hopeful and vibrant future.

His Excellency Benigno Aquino III
President Republic of the Philippines

We most congratulations to the students, parents and teachers of AMA Class of 2011! We Filipinos are known throughout the world for our competency, hospitality and capacity in excel in our chosen fields. I am positive that you our dear AMA graduates, will make our country proud as you find rewarding opportunities and avenues for growth, and contribute to our society. As you step into the challenging world, may you always remember the lessons and values inculcated to you by your Alma Mater; these will serve you well as you rise among the ranks to realize your dreams. Mabuhay kayo!

Hon. Jejomar Binay
Hon. President, Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2011. As you leave your Alma Mater, remember that you bring with you the pioneering spirit of AMA and its passion for daring that can help you make a difference in your life and in the life of others. Strive to be resilient so that you will be able to respond to the various challenges in the workplace and in life. I hope that you find success in everything you do as you end one AMAzing journey and begin a new, challenging chapter in your life.

DR. AMABLE R. AZCUELLE V, DBA
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System

With great pride I extend my sincere felicitations to all AMA graduates. This is the day for reaping the fruits of your hard work and the first major step in achieving your goals. I am confident that AMA has equipped you with the necessary skills and knowledge as you enter the global workforce. Spread your wings and embrace what the future has in store for you. May this new beginning be fruitful and rewarding. Congratulations!

DR. AMABLE C. AZCUELLE IX
President and CEO, AMA Education System

AMA UNIVERSITY

IT is better here.

A member of the AMA Education System

Asia's Pioneer and Largest Network of I.T. Universities and Colleges. Over 200 campuses worldwide.

Philippines • U.S.A. • Hong Kong • Kingdom of Bahrain • Dubai • Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia • Xiamen, China